# 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook

Maryland

OVERALL GRADA

DH



## Acknowledgments

#### **STATES**

State education agencies remain our most important partners in this effort, and their gracious cooperation has helped to ensure the factual accuracy of the final product. Every state formally received a draft of the *Yearbook* in July 2011 for comment and correction; states also received a final draft of their reports a month prior to release. All but one state responded to our inquiries. While states do not always agree with the recommendations, their willingness to acknowledge the imperfections of their teacher policies is an important first step toward reform.

We also thank the many state pension boards that reviewed our drafts and responded to our inquiries.

#### **FUNDERS**

The primary funders for the 2011 *Yearbook* were:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- George Gund Foundation
- Gleason Family Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation

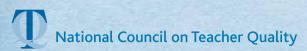
The National Council on Teacher Quality does not accept any direct funding from the federal government.

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Thank you to the team at CPS Gumpert for their design of the 2011 *Yearbook*. Thanks also to Colleen Hale and Jeff Hale at EFA Solutions for the original *Yearbook* design and ongoing technical support.



# **Executive Summary**

For five years running, the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) has tracked states' teacher policies, preparing a detailed and thorough compendium of teacher policy in the United States on topics related to teacher preparation, licensure, evaluation, career advancement, tenure, compensation, pensions and dismissal.

The 2011 State Teacher Policy Yearbook includes NCTQ's biennial, full review of the state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession. This year's report measures state progress against a set of 36 policy goals focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers. For the first time, the Yearbook includes a progress rating for states on goals that have been measured over time. An overall progress ranking is also included, showing how states compare to each other in moving forward on their teacher policies.

# Maryland at a Glance Overall 2011 Yearbook Grade:



Overall 2009 Yearbook Grade: D

Area Grades	2011	2009
Area 1 Delivering Well Prepared Teachers	D+	D-
Area 2 Expanding the Teaching Pool	C+	C+
Area 3 Identifying Effective Teachers	С	D-
Area 4 Retaining Effective Teachers	D+	C-
Area 5 Exiting Ineffective Teachers	F	F

# **Overall Progress**



# Highlights from recent progress in Maryland include:

- Evidence of student learning in teacher evaluations.
- Alternate route admissions and program requirements
- State data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness

# How is Maryland Faring?

# **Area 1** Delivering Well Prepared Teachers

# D+

## **Policy Strengths**

- Middle school teachers may not teach on a K-8 generalist license, and they must appropriately pass a single-subject content test.
- The state does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

## **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teacher candidates are not required to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- Elementary teachers are not adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with the Common Core Standards.
- Although teacher preparation programs are required to address the science of reading, candidates are not required to pass a test to ensure knowledge.
- Neither teacher preparation program nor licensure test requirements ensure that new elementary teachers are adequately prepared to teach mathematics.
- Although most secondary teachers must pass a content test to teach a core subject area, some secondary science and social studies teachers are not required to pass content tests for each discipline they intend to teach.
- Not all new teachers are required to pass a pedagogy test.
- Requirements for teacher preparation do not ensure a high-quality student teaching experience.
- The teacher preparation program approval process does not hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

# **Area 2** Expanding the Pool of Teachers



## **Policy Strengths**

- Admission requirements for the alternate route to certification evaluate past academic performance and offer flexibility for nontraditional candidates.
- Alternate route preparation is streamlined and relevant, and induction supports the immediate needs of new teachers.
- There are no restrictions on alternate route usage or providers.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- The state does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.
- Out-of-state teachers are not required to meet the state's testing requirements, and there may be additional obstacles that do not support licensure reciprocity.

# How is Maryland Faring?

# **Area 3** Identifying Effective Teachers



## **Policy Strengths**

- The state data system has the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Objective evidence of student learning is the preponderant criterion of teacher evaluations.

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Annual evaluations for all teachers are not required.
- Tenure decisions are not connected to evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- Licensure advancement and renewal are not based on teacher effectiveness.
- Little school-level data are reported that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

# **Area 4** Retaining Effective Teachers



## **Policy Strengths**

- All new teachers receive mentoring.
- Districts are given full authority for how teachers are paid, although they are not discouraged from basing salary schedules solely on years of experience and advanced degrees.
- Teachers can receive additional compensation for working in high-need schools.

## **Policy Weaknesses**

- Professional development is not aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
- The state does not support performance pay or additional compensation for relevant prior work experience or teaching in shortage subject areas.
- Teachers are only offered a defined benefit pension plan, and pension policies are not portable, flexible or fair to all teachers.
- The pension system is significantly underfunded and requires excessive contributions.
- Retirement benefits are determined by a formula that is not neutral, meaning that pension wealth does not accumulate uniformly for each year a teacher works.

# **Area 5** Exiting Ineffective Teachers



## **Policy Strengths**

#### **Policy Weaknesses**

- Teachers can teach for up to two years before having to pass required subject-matter tests.
- There is no assurance that teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations will be placed on structured improvement plans or that they will be eligible for dismissal if they fail to improve.
- Ineffective classroom performance is not grounds for dismissal, and tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal.
- Performance is not considered in determining which teachers to lay off during reductions in force.

# **Maryland Goal Summary**

Goal Breakdown		
Best Practice	0	Area 3: Identifying Effective Teachers
Fully Meets	3	3-A: State Data Systems
Nearly Meets	6	3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness
Partially Meets	9	3-C: Frequency of Evaluations
Only Meets a Small Part	5	
O Does Not Meet	13	3-D: Tenure
Progress on Goals Since 2009		3-E: Licensure Advancement
3 5 6 21 GOAL /		3-F: Equitable Distribution
Area 1: Delivering Well Prepared Teachers		Area 4: Retaining Effective Teachers
1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs	0	4-A: Induction
1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation	0	4-B: Professional Development
1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction		4-C: Pay Scales
1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics	0	4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience
1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation	•	4-E: Differential Pay
1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation		4-F: Performance Pay
1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science	•	4-G: Pension Flexibility
1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies		4-H: Pension Sustainability
1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation	•	4-I: Pension Neutrality
1-J: Assessing Professional Knowledge	<b>•</b>	Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers
1-K: Student Teaching	0	5-A: Licensure Loopholes
1-L: Teacher Preparation Program		5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations
Accountability  Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers		5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance
2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility	•	5-D: Reductions in Force
2-B: Alternate Route Preparation	•	
2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers		
2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses	0	
2-E: Licensure Reciprocity	0	

# About the Yearbook

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ) has long argued that no educational improvement strategies states take on are likely to have a greater impact than policies that seek to maximize teacher effectiveness. In this fifth edition of the State Teacher Policy Yearbook, NCTQ provides a detailed examination of state laws, rules and regulations that govern the teaching profession, covering the full breadth of policies including teacher preparation, licensure, evaluation, career advancement, tenure, compensation, pensions and dismissal.

The Yearbook is a 52-volume compendium of customized state reports for the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as a national summary overview, measuring state progress against a set of 36 specific policy goals. All of the reports are available from NCTQ's website at www.nctq.org/stpy.

The 36 Yearbook goals are focused on helping states put in place a comprehensive policy framework in support of preparing, retaining and rewarding effective teachers. The goals were developed based on input and ongoing feedback from state officials, practitioners, policy groups and other education organizations, as well as from NCTQ's own nationally respected advisory board. These goals meet five criteria for an effective reform framework:

- 1. They are supported by a strong rationale, grounded in the best research available. The rationale and research citations supporting each goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.
- 2. They offer practical rather than pie-in-the-sky solutions for improving teacher quality.
- 3. They take on the teaching profession's most pressing needs, including making the profession more responsive to the current labor market.
- 4. They are, for the most part, relatively cost neutral.
- 5. They respect the legitimate constraints that some states face so that the goals can work in all 50 states.

The need to ensure that all children have effective teachers has captured the attention of the public and policymakers across the country like never before. The Yearbook offers state school chiefs, school boards, legislatures and the many advocates who press hard for reform a concrete set of recommendations as they work to maximize teacher quality for their students.

# How to Read the Yearbook

NCTQ rates state teacher policy in several ways.

For each of the 36 individual teacher policy goals, states receive two ratings. The first rating indicates whether, or to what extent, a state has met the goal. NCTQ uses these familiar graphics to indicate the extent to which each goal has been met:









A new feature of this year's *Yearbook* is a progress rating for each goal NCTQ has measured over time. These ratings are intended to give states a meaningful sense of the changes in teacher policy since the 2009 *Yearbook* was published. Using the symbols below, NCTQ determines whether each state has advanced on the goal, if the state policy has remained unchanged, or if the state has actually lost ground on that topic.





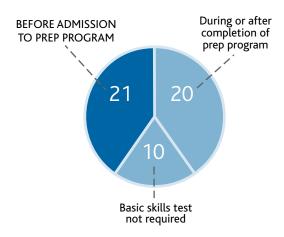


Some goals are marked with this symbol , which indicates that the bar has been raised for this goal since the 2009 *Yearbook*. With many states making considerable progress in advancing teacher effectiveness policy, NCTQ raised the standards for some goals where the bar had been quite low. As this may have a negative impact on some states' scores, those goals are always marked with the above symbol.

States receive grades in the five goal areas under which the 36 goals are organized: 1) delivering well prepared teachers; 2) expanding the pool of teachers; 3) identifying effective teachers; 4) retaining effective teachers and 5) exiting ineffective teachers. States also receive an overall grade that summarizes state performance across the five goal areas, giving an overall perspective on how states measure up against NCTQ benchmarks. New this year, states also receive an overall progress ranking, indicating how much progress each state has made compared to other states.

As always, the *Yearbook* provides a detailed narrative accounting of the policy strengths and weaknesses in each policy area for each state and for the nation as a whole. Best practices are highlighted. The reports are also chock full of reader-friendly charts and tables that provide a national perspective on each goal and serve as a quick reference on how states perform relative to one another, goal by goal.

Another new feature this year makes it easier to distinguish strong policies from weaker ones on our charts and tables. The policies NCTQ considers strong practices or the ideal policy positions for states are capitalized. This provides a quick thumbnail for readers to size up state policies against the policy option that aligns with NCTQ benchmarks for meeting each policy goal. For example, on the chart below, "BEFORE ADMISSION TO PREP PROGRAM" is capitalized, as that is the optimal timing for testing teacher candidates' academic proficiency.



# Goals

#### AREA 1: DELIVERING WELL PREPARED TEACHERS

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#### 1-A: Admission into Preparation Programs

The state should require undergraduate teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with good academic records.

#### 1-B: Elementary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core Standards.

#### 1-C: Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.

#### 1-D: Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.

### 1-E: Middle School Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

#### 1-F: Secondary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

## 1-G: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

The state should ensure that science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

#### 1-H: Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

The state should ensure that social studies teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

#### 1-I: Special Education Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they will be required to teach.

#### 1-I: Assessing Professional Knowledge

The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.

#### 1-K: Student Teaching

The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high-quality clinical experience.

#### 1-L: Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

## AREA 2: EXPANDING THE POOL OF TEACHERS

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#### 2-A: Alternate Route Eligibility

The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

#### 2-B: Alternate Route Preparation

The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide streamlined preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers.

#### 2-C: Alternate Route Usage and Providers

The state should provide an alternate route that is free from regulatory obstacles that limit its usage and providers.

#### 2-D: Part Time Teaching Licenses

The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.

#### 2-E: Licensure Reciprocity

The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.

# Goals

#### **AREA 3: IDENTIFYING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

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#### 3-A: State Data Systems

The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.

#### 3-B: Evaluation of Effectiveness

The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.

## 3-C: Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

#### 3-D: Tenure

The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### 3-E: Licensure Advancement

The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### 3-F: Equitable Distribution

The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.

#### **AREA 4: RETAINING EFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

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#### 4-A: Induction

The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-need schools.

#### 4-B: Professional Development

The state should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.

#### 4-C: Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

## 4-D: Compensation for Prior Work Experience

The state should encourage districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

## 4-E: Differential Pay

The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.

#### 4-F: Performance Pay

The state should support performance pay but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.

## 4-G: Pension Flexibility

The state should ensure that pension systems are portable, flexible and fair to all teachers.

#### 4-H: Pension Sustainability

The state should ensure that excessive resources are not committed to funding teachers' pension systems.

#### 4-I: Pension Neutrality

The state should ensure that pension systems are neutral, uniformly increasing pension wealth with each additional year of work.

#### **AREA 5: EXITING INEFFECTIVE TEACHERS**

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#### 5-A: Licensure Loopholes

The state should close loopholes that allow teachers who have not met licensure requirements to continue teaching.

#### 5-B: Unsatisfactory Evaluations

The state should articulate consequences for teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations, including specifying that teachers with multiple unsatisfactory evaluations should be eligible for dismissal.

## 5-C: Dismissal for Poor Performance

The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.

#### 5-D: Reductions in Force

The state should require that its school districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal A – Admission into Preparation Programs

The state should require undergraduate teacher preparation programs to admit only candidates with good academic records.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. All preparation programs in a state should use a common admissions test to facilitate program comparison, and the test should allow comparison of applicants to the general college-going population and selection of applicants in the top half of that population.
- Programs should have the option of exempting candidates from this test who submit comparable SAT or ACT scores at a level set by the state.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

## **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal A Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009



#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not require aspiring teachers to pass a test of academic proficiency as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs, instead delaying its basic skills assessment until teacher candidates are ready to apply for licensure.

#### Supporting Research

Proposal Guidelines for New/Modified Educator Preparation Programs

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/2C7FFCC4-3F21-4B62-9406-311B06CDF2DB/17291/Guid linesNewModifiedEdPrepPrograms.pdf

**Basic Skills Testing Information** 

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/certification\_branch/testing\_information/praxis1

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

 Require teacher candidates to pass a test of academic proficiency that assesses reading, writing and mathematics skills as a criterion for admission to teacher preparation programs.

Teacher preparation programs that do not screen candidates end up investing considerable resources in individuals who may not be able to successfully complete the program and pass licensing tests. Candidates needing additional support should complete remediation prior to program entry, avoiding the possibility of an unsuccessful investment of significant public tax dollars.

Require preparation programs to use a common test normed to the general college-bound population.

The basic skills tests in use in most states largely assess middle school-level skills. To improve the selectivity of teacher candidates—a common characteristic in countries whose students consistently outperform ours in international comparisons—Maryland should require an assessment that demonstrates that candidates are academically competitive with all peers, regardless of their intended profession. Requiring a common test normed to the general college population would allow for the selection of applicants in the top half of their class, as well as facilitate program comparison.

**Exempt candidates with comparable SAT or ACT scores.** 

Maryland should waive the basic skills test requirement for candidates whose SAT or ACT scores demonstrate that they are in the top half of their class.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that it is a state where interagency cooperation is the norm. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) authorizes institutions to offer degrees, and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) requires passing scores on the Praxis I and Praxis II tests for certification. Each institution determines its own entrance criteria for teacher preparation programs. Currently, all approved programs use the Praxis I: Basic Skills (Reading, Writing and Mathematics) as an entrance requirement, in response to the Higher Education Act: Title II, the Higher Education Report Card.

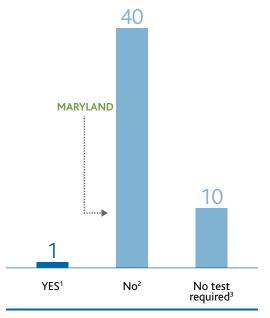
Further, Maryland pointed out that all state-approved teacher preparation programs have the option of exempting candidates from the Praxis I test who submit comparable SAT, ACT or GRE scores.



Although there are a number of states that require teacher candidates to pass a basic skills test as a criterion for admission to a preparation program, **Texas** is the only state that requires a test of academic proficiency normed to the general college bound population rather than just to prospective teachers. In addition, the state's minimum scores for admission appear to be relatively selective when compared to other tests used across the country.

Figure 2

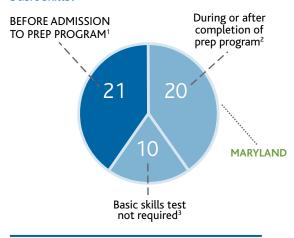
Do states require a test of academic proficiency that is normed to the general college-going population?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Texas

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Figure 3
When do states test teacher candidates' basic skills?

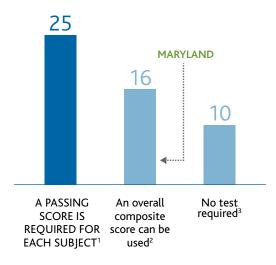


- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- Alabama, Alaska, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachussets, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Vermont
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming



Figure 5

Do states measure performance in reading, mathematics and writing?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- California<sup>4</sup>, District of Columbia<sup>4</sup>, Hawaii<sup>4</sup>, Indiana, Iowa, Maine<sup>4</sup>, Maryland, New Hampshire<sup>4</sup>, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota<sup>5</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>4</sup>, Rhode Island<sup>4</sup>, Vermont, Virginia
- 3. Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Ohio, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
- 4. Minimum score must be met in each section.
- Composite score can only be used if passing score is met on two of three subtests.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal B – Elementary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education, the necessary foundation for teaching to the Common Core Standards.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that its approved teacher preparation programs deliver a comprehensive program of study in broad liberal arts coursework. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours to ensure appropriate depth in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts. (Mathematics preparation for elementary teachers is discussed in Goal 1-D.)
- 2. The state should require elementary teacher candidates to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure sufficient content knowledge of all subjects.
- 3. The state should require elementary teacher candidates to complete a content specialization in an academic subject area. In addition to enhancing content knowledge, this requirement also ensures that prospective teachers have taken higher level academic coursework.
- 4. Arts and sciences faculty, rather than education faculty, should in most cases teach liberal arts coursework to teacher candidates.

## **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal B Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Although Maryland has adopted the Common Core Standards, the state does not ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared to teach the rigorous content associated with these standards.

Maryland now requires candidates to pass the Praxis II "Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications" test. Regrettably, this is not an adequate assessment of content knowledge. The description of topics assessed and sample questions focus almost exclusively on methods and instructional strategies, and although it is a sound approach to assess pedagogical knowledge in the context of specific content areas, that does not mean that such a test measures content knowledge.

In addition, Maryland requires that elementary education candidates complete a minimum of 12 semester hours in science and reading, and nine semester hours in both English and social studies. (For mathematics requirements, see Goal 1-D.)

Finally, there is no assurance that arts and sciences faculty will teach liberal arts classes to elementary teacher candidates.

Supporting Research COMAR 13A.12.02.04 Praxis II www.ets.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### Require a content test that ensures sufficient knowledge in all subjects.

Maryland is urged to require an elementary assessment that adequately tests subject-matter knowledge, rather than its current selection, which is more a test of pedagogy.

Further, the state should ensure that this subject-matter test for elementary teacher candidates is well aligned with the Common Core Standards, which represent an effort to significantly raise the standards for the knowledge and skills American students will need for college readiness and global competitiveness.

Maryland should also require separate passing scores for each content area on the test because without them it is impossible to measure knowledge of individual subjects. To be meaningful, Maryland should ensure that these passing scores reflect high levels of performance.

#### Provide broad liberal arts coursework relevant to the elementary classroom.

Maryland should either articulate a specific set of standards or establish more comprehensive coursework requirements that are specifically geared to the areas of knowledge needed by PK-6 teachers. Further, the state should align its requirements for elementary teacher candidates with the Common Core Standards to ensure that candidates will complete coursework relevant to the common topics in elementary grades. An adequate curriculum is likely to require approximately 36 credit hours in the core subject areas of English, science, social studies and fine arts.

### Require at least an academic concentration.

An academic concentration, if not a full academic major, would not only enhance Maryland teachers' content knowledge, but it would also ensure that prospective teachers have taken higher-level academic coursework. Further, it would provide an option for teacher candidates unable to fulfill student teaching or other professional requirements to still earn a degree.

## Ensure that arts and sciences faculty teach liberal arts coursework.

Although an education professor is best suited to teach effective methodologies in subject instruction, faculty from the university's college of arts and sciences should provide subject-matter foundation.

## MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state added that through the program-approval process and ongoing monitoring, its preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education. "The methodology is standards-driven and performance-assessed. A prescriptive approach neglects candidates' overall and prior experience, representing a transcript analysis approach that is counterintuitive to individualized teacher development."

Maryland also asserted that it uses ACEI standards, which will be revised in 2013 with revisions mandatory for use in 2015, and noted that it has a rigorous teacher preparation evaluation and monitoring process in place that includes national content standards and outcomes as part of the content preparation for all teacher candidates.

The state also pointed out that its approved preparation programs include courses addressing the science of reading instruction. Teacher candidates cannot test out of the required 12 semester hours of reading, and the test-out option, which became available in September 2001, is only for in-service teachers who were certified prior to the implementation of the statewide reading course requirements.

#### **State Response Citation**

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/?WBCMODE=Pres%25%3e

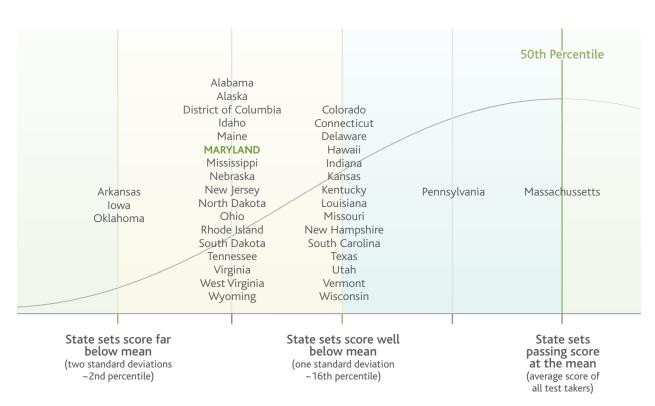
#### **LAST WORD**

Maryland's reading requirements for elementary teacher candidates are discussed in Goal 1-C.



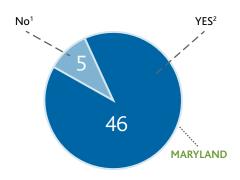
Although no state meets this goal, three states have noteworthy policies. **Massachusetts's** testing requirements, which are based on the state's curriculum, ensure that elementary teachers are provided with a broad liberal arts education. **Indiana** and **Utah** are the first two states to adopt the new Praxis II "Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects" content test, which requires candidates to pass separately scored subtests in reading/language arts, mathematics, social studies and science.

Figure 7
Where do states set the passing score on elementary content licensure tests<sup>1</sup>?



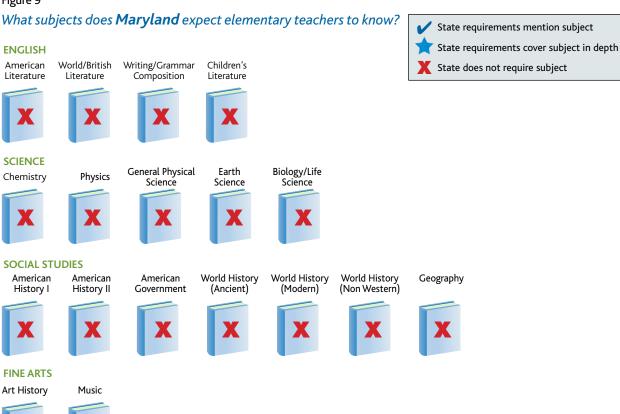
<sup>1</sup> Based on the most recent technical data that could be obtained; data not available for Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon and Washington. Montana and Nebraska do not require a content test. Colorado score is for Praxis II, not PLACE. Indiana, Maryland, Nevada, South Carolina and Utah now require new Praxis tests for which the technical data are not yet available; analysis is based on previously required test.

Figure 8 Have states adopted the K-12 Common Core State Standards?



<sup>1.</sup> Alaska, Minnesota, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia

Figure 9



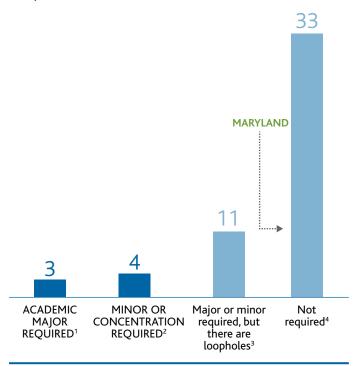
<sup>2.</sup> Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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West Virginia																			
Wisconsin																			
Wyoming																			

■ Subject mentioned ★ Subject covered in depth

Figure 11

Do states expect elementary teachers to complete an academic concentration?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Mexico
- 2. Strong Practice: Indiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oklahoma
- California, Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri,
   New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia
   These states require a major, minor or concentration but
   there is no assurance it will be in an academic subject area.
- 4. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal C – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Reading Instruction

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers know the science of reading instruction.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- To ensure that teacher preparation programs adequately prepare candidates in the science of reading instruction, the state should require that these programs train teachers in the five instructional components shown by scientifically based reading research to be essential to teaching children to read.
- The state should require that new elementary teachers pass a rigorous test of reading instruction in order to attain licensure.
   The design of the test should ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without knowing the science of reading instruction.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal C Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

In its Reading Course Revision Guidelines, Maryland requires teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading. Programs must provide training in the five instructional components of scientifically based reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The state also requires reading coursework for all teacher candidates: 12 credit hours for early childhood and elementary teacher candidates and six credit hours for secondary teacher candidates.

However, Maryland does not require teacher candidates to pass a reading assessment prior to certification or at any point thereafter to verify that they have been effectively trained in the science of reading instruction.

Additionally, the state allows in-service early childhood and elementary teachers who were certified prior to September 2001 to test out of its coursework requirements by passing the Praxis II test, "Reading Across the Curriculum," which covers the five components of reading.

#### **Supporting Research**

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.12.02.04

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/RC.htm

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.

Although the state is commended for requiring teacher preparation programs to address the science of reading, Maryland should also require a rigorous assessment tool to ensure that its elementary teacher candidates are adequately prepared before entering the classroom. The assessment should clearly test knowledge and skills related to the science of reading, and if it is combined with an assessment that also tests general pedagogy or elementary content, it should report a subscore for the science of reading specifically. Elementary teachers who do not possess the minimum knowledge in this area should not be eligible for licensure.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that all elementary teacher preparation programs train teachers in the science of reading, including the five instructional components: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Candidates must complete 12 course hours in the following areas: acquisition and processes of reading, instruction in reading, assessment of reading and materials for teaching reading. The requirement for the courses became effective January 1, 1999, and the requirement that they address scientifically based reading was implemented in 2004.

Maryland further noted that all four-year and two-year preparation programs revised their reading courses to address the science of reading. Reading Course Revision Guidelines were created by a committee representing reading professionals from higher education and local school systems. The proposed guidelines were reviewed and endorsed by Dr. Louisa Moats of Sopris West Educational Services and Dr. Marcia Davidson, a senior research associate at RMC Research Corporation. The state added that there are more than 200 courses that address the science of reading instruction offered in Maryland's colleges and universities.

Finally, Maryland contended that there is no test-out option for reading content in preparation programs. The test-out option for reading became available in September 2001, and it was only for in-service teachers who were certified prior to the implementation of the statewide reading course requirements.

## **Supporting Research**

COMAR 13A.12.01.11.5(a)

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/C90FEC83-190A-4EFD-92E1-7344E7527C2B/7875/ReadingCourseRevisionGuidelines1.pdf

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/reading\_first/

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/13a/13a.12.01.11

#### **LAST WORD**

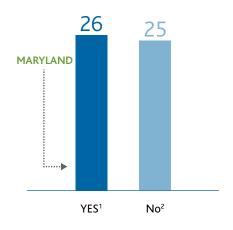
In this analysis, NCTQ acknowledges the state's coursework requirements. However, to ensure requisite knowledge in the science of reading, Maryland is urged to require all elementary teachers to pass a rigorous assessment in the science of reading instruction.



## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

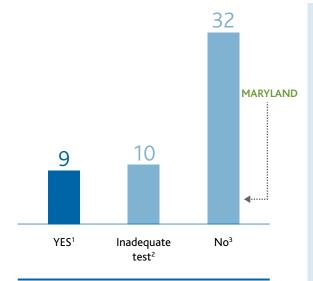
Eight states meet this goal by requiring that preparation programs for elementary teacher candidates address the science of reading and requiring that candidates pass comprehensive assessments that specifically test the five elements of instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Independent reviews of the assessments used by Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia confirm that these tests are rigorous measures of teacher candidates' knowledge of scientifically based reading instruction.

Figure 13 Do states require preparation for elementary teachers in the science of reading?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Figure 14 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of the science of reading?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota<sup>4</sup>, New Mexico<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania<sup>5</sup>, Tennessee,
- 2. Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Missouri, New York, Oregon, Texas
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.
- 5. Test is under development and not yet available for review.

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Based on the limited information available about the test on the state's website.

<sup>2.</sup> Test is under development and not yet available for review.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal D – Elementary Teacher Preparation in Mathematics

The state should ensure that new elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of the mathematics content taught in elementary grades.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require teacher preparation programs to deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. This content should be specific to the needs of the elementary teacher (i.e., foundations, algebra and geometry with some statistics).
- 2. The state should require elementary teacher candidates to pass a rigorous test of mathematics content in order to attain licensure.
- Such test can also be used to test out of course requirements and should be designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of mathematics.

#### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal D Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland relies on its coursework requirements as the basis for articulating its requirements for the mathematics content knowledge of elementary teacher candidates.

The state requires elementary teaching candidates to earn at least 12 semester hours of credit in mathematics. However, Maryland stipulates neither the requisite content of these classes nor that they must meet the needs of elementary teachers.

The state also requires that teacher preparation programs prepare elementary teacher candidates to teach to the state's elementary student curriculum. As discussed in Goal 1-B, this requirement is difficult for a state to monitor or enforce.

Finally, Maryland requires that all new elementary teachers pass a general subject-matter test, the Praxis II. This commercial test lacks a specific mathematics subscore, so one can likely fail the mathematics portion and still pass the test. Further, while this test does cover important elementary school-level content, it barely evaluates candidates' knowledge beyond an elementary school level, does not challenge their understanding of underlying concepts and does not require candidates to apply knowledge in nonroutine, multistep procedures.

#### **Supporting Research**

COMAR 13A.12.02.04

www.ets.org/praxis

"No Common Denominator: The Preparation of Elementary Teachers in Mathematics by America's Education Schools," NCTQ, June 2008 http://www.nctq.org/p/publications/docs/nctq\_ttmath\_fullreport.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.

Although Maryland requires mathematics coursework, the state should require teacher preparation programs to provide mathematics content specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers. This includes specific coursework in foundations, algebra and geometry, with some statistics.

■ Require teacher candidates to pass a rigorous mathematics assessment.

Maryland should assess mathematics content with a rigorous assessment tool, such as the test required in Massachusetts, that evaluates mathematics knowledge beyond an elementary school level and challenges candidates' understanding of underlying mathematics concepts. Such a test could also be used to allow candidates to test out of coursework requirements. Teacher candidates who lack minimum mathematics knowledge should not be eligible for licensure.

## MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that it meets this goal by ensuring, through the program approval process and ongoing monitoring, that its teacher preparation programs provide elementary teachers with a broad liberal arts education. Further, elementary mathematics content is based on the standards of ACEI.

The state also noted that the Praxis II test required for certification at the elementary level is Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Analysis (5015) with a passing score of 161. It includes test items on the following four content areas: reading and language arts, math, science and social studies. This is a new test that will be offered for the first time in the 2011-2012 academic year. Some colleges and universities require the Praxis tests as exit requirements; the state requires them for certification.

#### LAST WORD

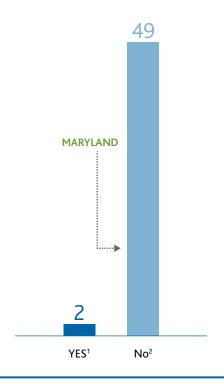
The issue is that mathematics as part of a liberal arts framework does not specifically provide the mathematics content that elementary teachers need. Further, while the ACEI standards address content in mathematics foundations, they lack the specificity needed to ensure that teacher preparation programs deliver mathematics content of appropriate breadth and depth to elementary teacher candidates. For example, ACEI algebra standards state that teacher candidates should "know, understand and apply algebraic principles," but they make little mention of the actual knowledge that might contribute to such an understanding.



## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Massachusetts is the only state that ensures that its elementary teachers have sufficient knowledge of mathematics content. As part of its general curriculum test, the state utilizes a separately scored mathematics subtest that covers topics specifically geared to the needs of elementary teachers.

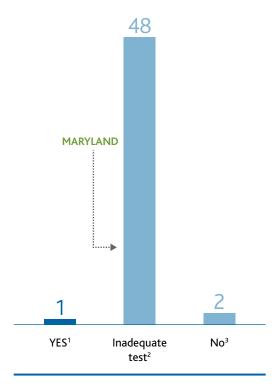
Figure 17 Do states articulate appropriate mathematics preparation for elementary teachers?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Massachusetts

2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Figure 18 Do states measure new elementary teachers' knowledge of math?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Massachusetts

- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Montana, Nebraska

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal E - Middle School Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should encourage middle school candidates who intend to teach multiple subjects to earn minors in two core academic areas rather than earn a single major. Middle school candidates intending to teach a single subject area should earn a major in that area.
- 2. The state should not permit middle school teachers to teach on a generalist license that does not differentiate between the preparation of middle school teachers and that of elementary teachers.
- 3. The state should require that new middle school teachers pass a licensing test in every core academic area they intend to teach.

## **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal E **Maryland** Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland requires middle school education certification (grades 4-9) for all middle school teachers. However, these teachers are only required to complete a teacher preparation program; the state does not explicitly require a major or minor in these subject areas.

All new middle school teachers in Maryland are also required to pass a single-subject Praxis II content test to attain licensure; a general content knowledge test is not an option.

#### **Supporting Research**

COMAR 13A.12.02.05

www.ets.org/praxis

#### RECOMMENDATION

## Strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation.

Although Maryland is commended for not allowing middle school teachers to teach on a K-8 generalist license, it should strengthen middle school teachers' subject-matter preparation. Maryland should encourage middle school teachers who plan to teach multiple subjects to earn two minors in two core academic areas. Middle school candidates who intend to teach a single subject should earn a major in that area.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that its route for preparing middle-level teachers—an approved middle-level preparation program (4-9) based on National Middle School Association (NMSA) standards—requires depth and breadth in two content areas. Further, candidates are required to pass the appropriate middle-level content tests as a condition of licensure. While grade bands allow for some crossover of grade-level certification (e.g., secondary teachers may appropriately teach grades 7 and 8), actual certification at the middle level requires a specialized program.

Maryland also contended that it has two approved programs that lead to initial middle school certification. This program development resulted from actions of the Board of Education's decision to no longer issue a generalist license, which would allow new middle school teachers to teach on that license. This decision became effective July 1, 2009. Currently, other higher education institutions, in collaboration with the state, are in the process of developing middle-level preparation programs.



# **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Arkansas, Georgia and Pennsylvania ensure that all middle school teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach middle school-level content. Teachers are required to earn at least two content-area minors. Georgia and Pennsylvania also require passing scores on single-subject content tests, and Arkansas requires a subject-matter assessment with separate passing scores for each academic area.

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West Virginia			
Wisconsin			5
Wyoming			
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<sup>1.</sup> California offers a K-12 generalist license for self-contained classrooms.

<sup>2.</sup> Illinois offers K-9 license.

<sup>3.</sup> With the exception of mathematics.

<sup>4.</sup> Oregon offers 3-8 license.

<sup>5.</sup> Wisconsin offers 1-8 license.

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<sup>1.</sup> State does not explicitly require two minors, but it has equivalent requirements.

Pennsylvania has two options. One option requires a 30 credit concentration in one subject and nearly a minor (12 credits) in three additional subjects; the second option is 21 credits in two subject-area concentrations with 12 credits in two additional subjects.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal F – Secondary Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that secondary teachers are sufficiently prepared to teach appropriate grade-level content.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a licensing test in every subject they intend to teach.
- 2. The state should require that secondary teachers pass a content test when adding subject-area endorsements to an existing license.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.

# Figure 22 How States are Faring in Secondary Teacher Preparation **Best Practice States** Indiana, Tennessee 29 States Meet Goal Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin States Nearly Meet Goal States Partly Meet Goal District of Columbia, Hawaii, Louisiana, MARYLAND, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico States Meet a Small Part of Goal 12 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: **New Goal**

# Area 1: Goal F Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not ensure that all secondary teachers are adequately prepared to teach grade-level content.

Maryland requires that its secondary teacher candidates pass a Praxis II content test to teach any core secondary subjects. Unfortunately, Maryland permits a significant loophole to this important policy by allowing both combination science and general social studies licenses, without requiring subject-matter testing for each subject area within these disciplines (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

To add an additional subject or field to a secondary license, teachers in Maryland may either complete coursework requirements (up to 30 credits, depending on the area) or submit a passing score on a content test.

#### **Supporting Research**

Testing Information http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification\_branch/testing\_information/testing\_info\_general

Adding Endorsement

http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/certification/certification\_branch/faq

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require subject-matter testing for all secondary teacher candidates.

Maryland wisely requires subject-matter tests for most secondary teachers but should address any loopholes that undermine this policy (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

■ Require subject-matter testing when adding subject-area endorsements.

Maryland should require passing scores on subject-specific content tests, regardless of other coursework or degree requirements, for teachers who are licensed in core secondary subjects and wish to add another subject area, or endorsement, to their licenses. While coursework may be generally indicative of background in a particular subject area, only a subject-matter test ensures that teachers know the specific content they will need to teach.

## MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

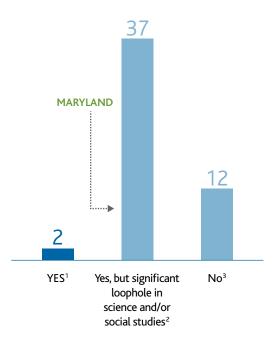
Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Not only do Indiana and Tennessee require that secondary teacher candidates pass a content test to teach any core secondary subjects, but these states also do not permit any significant loopholes to this important policy by allowing secondary general science or social studies licenses (see Goals 1-G and 1-H).

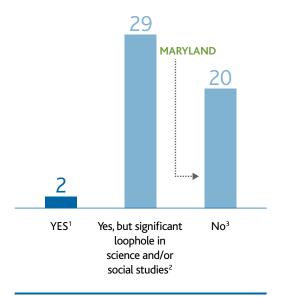
Figure 23 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area for licensure?



### 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. (For more on loopholes, see Goals 1-G and 1-H.)
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

Figure 24 Do all secondary teachers have to pass a content test in every subject area to add an endorsement?



#### 1. Strong Practice: Indiana, Tennessee

- 2. Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin. (For more on loopholes, see Goals 1-G and 1-H.)
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Wyoming

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal G – Secondary Teacher Preparation in Science

The state should ensure that science teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require secondary science teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each science discipline they intend to teach.
- 2. The state should require middle school science teachers to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of science.

## **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal G Maryland Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Although Maryland commendably does not offer a general science certification for secondary teachers, it does have a physical science certification, for which candidates must earn either a major in the certification area, or complete at least 36 hours of content coursework in the certification area. Candidates must pass the Praxis II "Chemistry, Physics and General Science" test.

Middle school science teachers in Maryland must be specifically certified to teach science. Commendably, candidates are required to pass the Praxis II "Middle School Science" test.

### **Supporting Research**

COMAR 13A.12.02.05; .06 **Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

#### RECOMMENDATION

Require secondary science teachers to pass tests of content knowledge for each science discipline they intend to teach.

States that allow combination licenses across multiple science disciplines—and require only a comprehensive content test—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Maryland's required assessment combines both physics and chemistry and does not report separate scores for each subject. Therefore, a candidate could, for example, answer many physics questions incorrectly on the combination content test, yet still be licensed to teach physics to high school students.

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

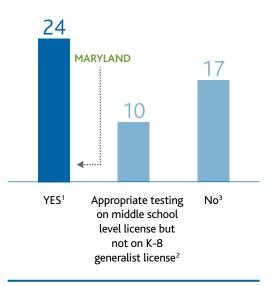
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## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

New Jersey does not offer certification in general science for secondary teachers. Although the state allows a combination physical science certificate, it ensure adequate content knowledge in both chemistry and physics by requiring teacher candidates to pass individual content tests in chemistry, physics and general science. Further, middle school science teachers must pass a science-specific content test.

Figure 27 Do states ensure that middle school teachers have adequate preparation to teach science?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- 2. Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Wyoming

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal H - Secondary Teacher Preparation in Social Studies

The state should ensure that social studies teachers know all the subject matter they are licensed to teach.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require secondary social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test of each social studies discipline they intend to teach.
- The state should require middle school social studies teachers to pass a subject-matter test designed to ensure that prospective teachers cannot pass without sufficient knowledge of social studies.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal H Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland offers secondary certification in general social studies. Candidates must earn a major in social studies or complete 36 hours of coursework with at least two courses each in history, geography, economics and political science. They must also pass the Praxis II "Social Studies" content test. Teachers with this license are not limited to teaching general social studies but rather can teach any of the topical areas. Maryland also offers secondary certifications in geography, history and political science. These candidates are required to pass the same general content test.

Middle school social studies teachers in Maryland must be specifically certified to teach social studies. Commendably, candidates are required to pass the Praxis 2 "Middle School Social Studies" test.

### Supporting Research

COMAR 13A.12.02.05; .06; .13 **Praxis Testing Requirements** www.ets.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require secondary social studies teachers to pass tests of content knowledge for each social studies discipline they intend to teach.

States that allow general social studies certifications—and do not require content tests for each area—are not ensuring that these secondary teachers possess adequate subject-specific content knowledge. Maryland's required assessment combines all subject areas (e.g., history, geography, economics) and does not report separate scores for each subject area. Therefore, candidates could answer many—perhaps all—history questions, for example, incorrectly, yet still be licensed to teach history to high school students.

## MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

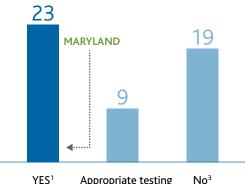
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## **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Not only does Indiana ensure that its secondary social studies teachers possess adequate content knowledge of all subjects they intend to teach through both coursework and content testingbut the state's policy also does not make it overly burdensome for social studies teachers to teach multiple subjects. Other notable states include Georgia and South Dakota, which also do not offer secondary general social studies certifications.

Figure 30 Do states ensure that middle school teachers have adequate preparation to teach social studies?



Appropriate testing on middle school level license but not on K-8 generalist license<sup>2</sup>

- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia
- 2. Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Washington
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Montana, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming

<sup>1.</sup> Massachusetts does not offer a general social studies license, but offers combination licenses.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal I – Special Education Teacher Preparation

The state should ensure that special education teachers know the subject matter they will be required to teach.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should not permit special education teachers to teach on a K-12 license that does not differentiate between the preparation of elementary teachers and that of secondary teachers.
- 2. All elementary special education candidates should have a broad liberal arts program of study that includes study in mathematics, science, English, social studies and fine arts and should be required to pass a subjectmatter test for licensure that is no less rigorous than what is required of general education candidates.
- 3. The state should require that teacher preparation programs graduate secondary special education teacher candidates who are highly qualified in at least two subjects. The state should also customize a "HOUSSE" route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all the subjects they teach.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal I Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Bar Raised for this Goal (=)



**Progress Since 2009** 

### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, Maryland does not offer a K-12 special education certification.

However, Maryland does not ensure that its elementary special education teacher candidates are provided with a broad liberal arts program of study relevant to the elementary classroom. It also does not require that they pass the same subject-matter test as general education candidates.

Further, Maryland fails to require that secondary special education teacher candidates are highly qualified in at least two subject areas, and it does not customize a HOUSSE route for new secondary special education teachers to help them achieve highly qualified status in all subjects they teach.

### Supporting Research

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.12.02.20 **Praxis Test Requirements** www.ets.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Provide a broad liberal arts program of study to elementary special education candidates, and require that they pass the same content test as general education teachers.
  - Maryland should ensure that special education teacher candidates who will teach elementary grades possess knowledge of the subject matter at hand. Not only should the state require core-subject coursework relevant to the elementary classroom, but it should also require that these candidates pass the same subject-matter test required of all elementary teachers. Failure to ensure that teachers possess requisite content knowledge deprives special education students of the opportunity to reach their academic potential.
- Ensure that secondary special education teacher candidates graduate with highly qualified status in at least two subjects, and customize a HOUSSE route so that they can achieve highly qualified status in all subjects they plan to teach.
  - To make secondary special education teacher candidates more flexible and better able to serve schools and students, Maryland should use a combination of coursework and testing to ensure that they graduate with highly qualified status in two core academic areas. A customized HOUSSE route can also help new secondary special education teacher candidates to become highly qualified in multiple subjects by offering efficient means by which they could gain broad overviews of specific areas of content knowledge, such as content-driven university courses. Such a route is specifically permitted in the 2004 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that a liberal arts background is provided through the general college or university requirements that elementary and special education candidates complete before they enter teacher education programs.

The state also noted that secondary special education teachers must be certified in a content area to be highly qualified if they are the primary teacher of content in the classroom or the teacher of record. Those holding professional certification in special education may add content in one of two ways: presenting a qualifying score on the appropriate content assessment, or presenting a minimum of 15 semester hours in the age-appropriate area of special education and 15 semester hours in related content areas.

Maryland pointed out that even for teachers who are not currently teachers of record, and while not a requirement, the state has supported programs that help secondary special educators become highly qualified in the core academic areas assessed on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in middle school and the High School Assessment in high school.

In addition, the state contended that it plans to phase out HOUSSE by the conclusion of school year 2013-2014. The use of HOUSSE will end for general educators who wish to use experiences they have had prior to the 2005-2006 school year. The HOUSSE process for 1) elementary and secondary certified teachers in special education and teaching core academic subjects in special education assignments, and 2) K-12 teachers in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and teaching core academic subjects, will be available only to teachers with experience prior to the 2010-2011 school year. The use of HOUSSE for these educators (excepting multi-subject special educators who are highly qualified in language arts, mathematics or science at the time of hire) will also end at the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year, regardless of prior experience.

Finally, Maryland added that teachers who are certified in both elementary education and special education are required to pass both the elementary content test and the Praxis II Special Education assessment. Teachers certified in special education either at the elementary or secondary level, and listed as the teacher of record, must have this dual certification, including the testing referenced above, to be considered highly qualified under the rules of NCLB.

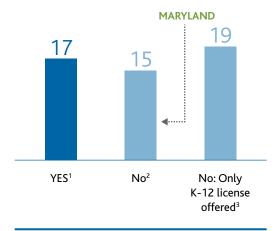
Figure 32  Do states distinguish between elementary and secondary special education teachers?  Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado	□ □ □ □ □ □ □   OoS5NOTOFFRA	□ □ □ □ □ □ □ certification(s) and Brade. Specific	Granication a K-72
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## **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Unfortunately, NCTQ cannot highlight any state's policy in this area. Preparation of special education teachers remains a topic in critical need of states' attention. However, it is worth noting that three states—Louisiana, Pennsylvania and Texas—will no longer issue K-12 special education certifications. Only grade-level specific options will be available to new teachers.

Figure 33 Do states require subject-matter testing for elementary special education licenses?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon<sup>4</sup>, Pennsylvania<sup>5</sup>, Rhode Island, Texas, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 2. Alaska, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Washington, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia
- 4. Although Oregon requires testing, the state allows an "alternative assessment" option for candidates who fail the tests twice to still be considered for a license.
- 5. In Pennsylvania, a candidate who opts for dual certification in elementary special education and as a reading specialist does not have to take a content test.

Figure 32

1. Beginning January 1, 2013

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal J – Assessing Professional Knowledge

The state should use a licensing test to verify that all new teachers meet its professional standards.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

 The state should assess new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning by means of a pedagogy test aligned to the state's professional standards.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 1: Goal J Maryland Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland requires all new secondary and early childhood education teachers to pass a popular pedagogy test from the Praxis series in order to attain licensure.

Maryland is also part of the Teacher Performance Assessment (TPA) Consortium and began a pilot program in Spring 2011.

**Supporting Research** 

www.ets.org/praxis

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

## Require that all new teachers pass a pedagogy test.

Maryland should verify that all new teachers meet professional standards through a test of professional standards for elementary teachers in addition to early childhood education and secondary teachers.

Ensure that performance assessments provide a meaningful measure of new teachers' knowledge and skills.

While Maryland is commended for considering the use of a performance-based assessment, the state should proceed with caution until additional data are available on the Teacher Performance Assessment. Additional research is needed to determine how the TPA compares to other teacher tests as well as whether the test's scores are predictive of student achievement. The track record on similar assessments is mixed at best. The two states that currently require the Praxis III performance-based assessment report pass rates of about 99 percent. Given that it takes significant resources to administer a performance-based assessment, a test that nearly every teacher passes is of questionable value.

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that teacher candidates are required to demonstrate pedagogical knowledge through assessments that are validated prior to adoption. Assessments are identified for consideration and adopted only after expert review by a validation panel comprised of individuals from local school systems and higher education knowledgeable in the area being considered. These panels evaluate the alignment of the proposed assessment with the state's standards.

Maryland pointed out that not every certification area has a content-specific pedagogy assessment. When the state began adopting Praxis tests in 1998, ETS did not have a pedagogy test for each content area. Only recently has ETS introduced a "generic" pedagogy test: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT). Maryland uses PLT: Early Childhood (adopted February 2007) and the PLT 7-12 for some areas. The ETS elementary and middle PLT do not match Maryland's grade bands. The state noted that it requires early childhood, elementary and secondary teacher candidates to present qualifying scores on the appropriate state-validated national test of pedagogy.

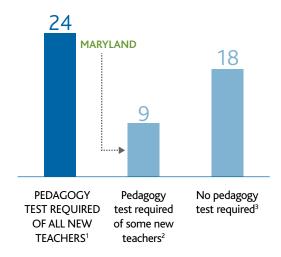
Maryland added that it understands the need to be cautious in endorsing any performance assessment program until data are conclusive. TPA is being piloted in several states with data maintained and analyzed from these pilots. NCATE is accepting the TPA as one assessment in its Standard 2 assessment system requirement. Maryland is a state that requires NCATE accreditation but also accepts TPA as a valid instrument.



## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Twenty-three states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it additionally commends the nine states (Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Texas) that utilize their own assessments to measure pedagogical knowledge and skills.

Figure 35 Do states measure new teachers' knowledge of teaching and learning?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia
- 2. Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah<sup>4</sup>, Wyoming
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. Not required until teacher advances from a Level One to a Level Two license.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal K - Student Teaching

The state should ensure that teacher preparation programs provide teacher candidates with a high-quality clinical experience.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require that student teachers only be placed with cooperating teachers for whom there is evidence of their effectiveness as measured by consistent gains in student learning.
- 2. The state should require that teacher candidates spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 1: Goal K Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland requires candidates to complete a teaching experience in one of two ways: a supervised experience (defined as an internship, practicum or student teaching) in a public or accredited nonpublic school setting at the appropriate age or grade level, or one year of a successful full-time teaching experience in a public or accredited nonpublic school setting at the appropriate age or grade level.

The state's institutional performance criteria articulate that teacher candidates must have "extensive field-based preparation in PK-12 schools with diverse populations, which includes an internship within two consecutive semesters that at a minimum has 100 full days in a school."

Maryland does not articulate any requirements for cooperating teachers.

### Supporting Research

COMAR 13A.12.02.04, -.06

www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/getfile.aspx?file=13a.12.02.04.htm

Maryland Institutional Performance Criteria (based on the Redesign of Teacher Education)  $www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/Program\_Approval\_Section.htm$ 

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Require teacher candidates to spend at least 10 weeks student teaching.

Maryland should require a summative clinical experience for all prospective teachers. Student teaching should be a full-time commitment, as requiring coursework and student teaching simultaneously does a disservice to both. Alignment with a school calendar for at least 10 weeks ensures both adequate classroom experience and exposure to a variety of ancillary professional activities.

■ Ensure that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.

In addition to the ability to mentor an adult, cooperating teachers should also be carefully screened for their capacity to further student achievement. Research indicates that the only aspect of a student teaching arrangement that has been shown to have an impact on student achievement is the positive effect of selection of the cooperating teacher by the preparation program, rather than the student teacher or school district staff.

Explicitly require that student teaching be completed locally, thus prohibiting candidates from completing this requirement abroad.

Unless preparation programs can establish true satellite campuses to closely supervise student teaching arrangements, placement in foreign or otherwise novel locales should be supplementary to a standard student teaching arrangement. Outsourcing the arrangements for student teaching makes it impossible to ensure the selection of the best cooperating teacher and adequate supervision of the student teacher and may prevent training of the teacher on relevant state instructional frameworks.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that it requires an internship of 100 days across two consecutive semesters for all candidates earning initial certification. For full-time candidates, this requirement is for an internship in a specially designed Professional Development School (PDS). PDSs are held accountable to the Maryland Professional Development School Standards on an ongoing basis with an annual report, the Teacher Preparation Improvement Plan, collected each December. "The work of PDS is a significant part of a rigorous, cyclical State Program Approval peer review process, along with the NCATE accreditation process for those institutions required to have national accreditation. Rather than being deficient in clinical experiences for its teacher candidates, Maryland is a national leader in this area."

The state noted that although PDS is not a requirement for candidates going to school part time, the 100-day requirement is. The TPIP also requires PK-12 student performance assessment data from interns at the school level, the data from which are then collected and collated at the state level with the intent to share potential best practices. Each candidate also has a mentor who has been mutually selected by the local school and the sponsoring IHE, and mentor training is required.

In a subsequent response, Maryland reiterated its disagreement with the analysis and asserted that the state assures a 20-week experience across two consecutive semesters.

### **Supporting Research**

2011 TPIP template

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/Program\_Approval\_Section.htm

### **LAST WORD**

The state's requirement of a 100-day internship does not ensure a full time 10-week student teaching experience. It may well be the state's intent and institutions' practice to provide such a clinical experience, but Maryland's code appears to leave significant room for different interpretations and noncompliance with this intention. The state is encouraged to amend its code accordingly.

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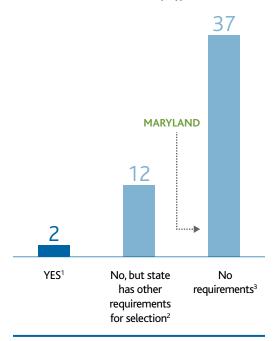
## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Although no state has been singled out for "best practice" honors, Florida and Tennessee require teacher candidates to complete at least 10 weeks of full-time student teaching, and they have taken steps toward ensuring that cooperating teachers have demonstrated evidence of effectiveness as measured by student learning.

<sup>1.</sup> Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

Figure 38

Is the selection of the cooperating teacher based on some measure of effectiveness?

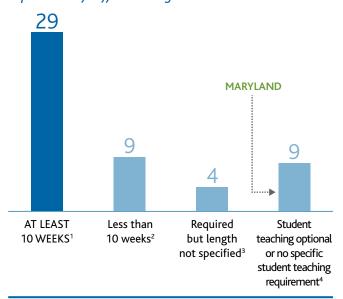


#### 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Tennessee

- Alabama, Connecticut, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

Figure 39

Is the summative student teaching experience of sufficient length?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia<sup>5</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nevada, New York, Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Illinois, Maine, New Mexico, Utah
- Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Maryland, Montana
- 5. Candidates can student teach for less than 12 weeks if determined to be proficient.

# **Area 1: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

## Goal L – Teacher Preparation Program Accountability

The state's approval process for teacher preparation programs should hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should collect value-added data that connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.
- 2. The state should collect other meaningful data that reflects program performance, including some or all of the following:
  - a. Average raw scores of teacher candidates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests;
  - b. Number of times, on average, it takes teacher candidates to pass licensing tests;
  - c. Satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison;
  - d. Evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching;
  - e. Five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.
- 3. The state should establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data. Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval.
- 4. The state should produce and publish on its website an annual report card that shows all the data the state collects on individual teacher preparation programs.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.

## Figure 40 How States are Faring in Teacher Preparation **Program Accountability Best Practice State** Florida State Meets Goal Louisiana States Nearly Meet Goal Alabama, Colorado 1, Georgia 1, Tennessee, Texas States Partly Meet Goal Kentucky, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina 16 States Meet a Small Part of Goal Arizona, Illinois 1, Iowa, MARYLAND, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia 1 22 States Do Not Meet Goal Alaska, Arkansas♣, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wisconsin, Wyoming Progress on this Goal Since 2009: **1**:4 **+**: 44 **↓**:3

# Area 1: Goal L Maryland Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal Raised for this Goal





**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland's approval process for its traditional and alternate route teacher preparation programs could do more to hold programs accountable for the quality of the teachers they produce.

Most importantly, Maryland does not collect value-added data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

The state does collect some objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of its alternate route programs. The state requires Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Programs to submit an annual data report that includes principal satisfaction ratings (90 percent or higher is deemed to be as good as or better than other first-year teachers); participants' satisfaction with the training and support received in the program, including their preparedness to teach upon completion; and data from intern supervisors and residency mentors. Maryland also requires that programs move up in their level of program development according to MAAP Guidelines, though the state does not specify any consequences for programs that fail to progress.

However, the state does not collect this data for its traditional teacher preparation programs and only collects programs' annual summary licensure test pass rates (80 percent of program completers must pass their licensure exams). The 80 percent pass-rate standard, while common among many states, sets the bar quite low and is not a meaningful measure of program performance.

Further, in the past three years, no programs in the state have been identified as low performing—an additional indicator that programs lack accountability.

Maryland's website does not include a report card that allows the public to review and compare program performance.

According to the state's winning Race to the Top application, Maryland has made objective outcomes a central component of its teacher preparation program approval process. The state plans to link its Longitudinal Data System with the Educator Information System to identify where teachers received preparation and whether they have been rated "effective" or "highly effective" as measured by student growth. Maryland has articulated that it will publish these data by fall 2013, and by fall 2014, it will use them to improve programs, and close and/or deny approval to those with poor track records. However, there is no evidence to date of specific policy to support these plans.

#### Supporting Research

Performance Criteria

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/2C7FFCC4-3F21-4B62-9406-311B06CDF2DB/19746/ InstitutionalPerformanceCriteria31109.pdf

Title II State Reports

https://title2.ed.gov

Race to the Top Application

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/phase2-applications/maryland.pdf

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Collect data that connect student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs.

To ensure that programs are producing effective classroom teachers, Maryland should consider academic achievement gains of students taught by the programs' graduates, averaged over the first three years of teaching. Although Maryland has commendably outlined its intentions in its RttT application, to ensure that preparation programs are held accountable, it is urged to codify these requirements.

## ■ Gather other meaningful data that reflect program performance.

In addition to knowing whether programs are producing effective teachers, other objective, meaningful data can also indicate whether programs are appropriately screening applicants and whether they are delivering essential academic and professional knowledge. Building on the data the state currently collects for its alternate route programs, Maryland should gather data for all teacher preparation programs, such as the following: average raw scores of graduates on licensing tests, including basic skills, subject matter and professional knowledge tests; satisfaction ratings by school principals and teacher supervisors of programs' student teachers, using a standardized form to permit program comparison; evaluation results from the first and/or second year of teaching; and five-year retention rates of graduates in the teaching profession.

### ■ Establish the minimum standard of performance for each category of data.

Programs should be held accountable for meeting these standards, with articulated consequences for failing to do so, including loss of program approval after appropriate due process.

## Publish an annual report card on the state's website.

To inform the public with meaningful, readily understandable indicators of how well programs are doing, Maryland should present all the data it collects on individual teacher preparation programs. NCTQ acknowledges that Maryland has articulated a plan to post an annual report card for the public as part of its RttT application. However, to date this plan has not been enacted or codified in state policy.

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that it uses the state's teacher standards, the "Essential Dimensions of Teaching" (EDOT), and the national InTASC standards (newly revised and adopted in spring 2011) as alignment tools for program approval. Further, all preparation programs are guided by the "Redesign of Teacher Education," which includes four components: strong academic background, extensive internship, performance assessment and linkage with PK-12 priorities.

Maryland added that candidate performance data are included in all IHE assessment systems. For combined state program approval and national accreditation visits, NCATE standards must also be met. The standards for all of the measures are performance- and outcomes-based, focusing on the quality of teachers.

The state noted that the Title II federal report is an annual accountability report that all programs must complete each year. Providers that fall below the 80 percent pass rate have the information published in a public report on the Title II website. If a program is designated as low performing, a plan is put into place with the assistance of the state to address weaknesses. Maryland added that all institutions placed on this list improved, and that this year, no programs in the state are on the low-performing list. In April 2011, states reported program completers for the 2009-10 cohort in a report to the federal government. The final version of that report was submitted in October 2011.

Maryland pointed out that while MAAPPs (Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Programs) are able to determine the satisfaction of principals and their mentors with those teachers who are employed

in their schools on the Resident Teacher Certificate for the first year of their careers and thus to provide valuable performance information, the same sort of survey would be relatively impossible to accomplish without the ability to effectively track the hiring and placement of graduates from traditional programs. The state added that one of the hallmarks of its Race to the Top work is the development of a system that will allow this. The Teacher Preparation Improvement Plan provides annual collection of data, including PK-12 student performance results of required portfolio projects or action research projects in the Professional Development Schools (PDSs). In addition, Maryland tracks the AYP performance of PDSs, and is currently upgrading efforts to pair lower-performing schools with higher-performing ones.

Maryland noted that it provides extraordinary technical assistance to its teacher preparation programs, using all relevant standards as guide markers, along with the Institutional Performance Criteria of the Redesign of Teacher Education in Maryland, in an effort to assure strong performance. The state's first priority is to extract best performances through data collection and program improvement interventions rather than through implementation of penalties. When those interventions fail to provide the intended outcomes in a timely fashion, penalties are imposed.

## **Supporting Research**

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/2C7FFCC4-3F21-4B62-9406-311B06CDF2DB/19746/Institutional-PerformanceCriteria31109.pdf

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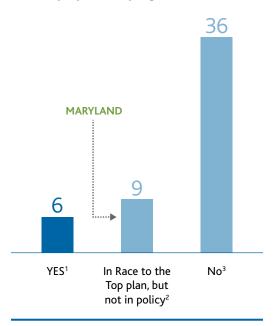
Reported institutional data do not distinguish between candidates in the traditional and alternate route programs.

The posted data do not allow the public to review and compare program performance because data are not disaggregated by program provider.



Florida connects student achievement gains to teacher preparation programs. The state also relies on other objective, meaningful data to measure the performance of teacher preparation programs, and it applies transparent, measurable criteria for conferring program approval. Florida also posts an annual report on its website.

Figure 42
Do states use student achievement data to hold teacher preparation programs accountable?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas
- 2. Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Newada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

#### Figure 43

## Which states collect meaningful data?

#### **AVERAGE RAW SCORES ON LICENSING TESTS**

Alabama, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey, Tennessee, West Virginia

#### SATISFACTION RATINGS FROM SCHOOLS

Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, MARYLAND<sup>1</sup>, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington<sup>1</sup>, West Virginia

#### **EVALUATION RESULTS FOR PROGRAM GRADUATES**

Alabama, Arizona, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Florida, Illiniois, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont

#### STUDENT LEARNING GAINS

Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, Texas

#### **TEACHER RETENTION RATES**

Arizona, Colorado, Delaware<sup>1</sup>, Missouri, New Jersey

1. For alternate route only

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Washington					
West Virginia					
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Wyoming					
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According to information posted on NCATE's website.

# **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal A – Alternate Route Eligibility

The state should require alternate route programs to exceed the admission requirements of traditional preparation programs while also being flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. With some accommodation for work experience, alternate route programs should screen candidates for academic ability, such as requiring a minimum 2.75 overall college CPA
- 2. All alternate route candidates, including elementary candidates and those having a major in their intended subject area, should be required to pass the state's subject-matter licensing test.
- 3. Alternate route candidates lacking a major in the intended subject area should be able to demonstrate subject-matter knowledge by passing a test of sufficient rigor.

### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 2: Goal A Maryland Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

While the admission requirements for Maryland's alternate route exceed those of traditional preparation programs and allow flexibility for nontraditional candidates, the state does not require applicants to demonstrate content knowledge on a subject-matter test.

The Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Program (MAAPP) has three options for entry. All options require a minimum GPA of 2.75 for admission. MAAPP Option one, referred to as the test-out option, requires that candidates have a 2.75 GPA overall. Option two and three only require the minimum in the major or core area.

Candidates to MAAPP are required to pass a test of basic skills. The state will accept equivalent scores on the SAT, ACT, or GRE in lieu of the basic skills requirement. Applicants are not required to take a subject-matter test for admission to MAAP.

Admission options two and three of MAAPP require individuals to have a major or to have completed 30 hours of relevant coursework. That state has created a third option for entry that allows candidates to test out of coursework requirements with a passing score on a subject-matter test.

### **Supporting Research**

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/maapp\_10\_07.htm

#### RECOMMENDATION

## Require applicants to pass a subject-matter test for admission.

While Maryland is recognized for providing a test-out option for coursework requirements, the state should consider requiring all candidates, including those with a major in the subject, to pass a content-knowledge test. The concept behind alternate routes is that the nontraditional candidate is able to concentrate on acquiring professional knowledge and skills because he or she has strong subject-area knowledge. Teachers without sufficient subject-matter knowledge place students at risk.

### ■ Consider accommodations for meeting the minimum GPA requirements.

Maryland is commended for requiring applicants to provide evidence of past academic performance. The state should consider whether some accommodation in this standard might be appropriate for career changers with relevant work experience. Alternatively, the state could require one of the standardized tests of academic proficiency commonly used in higher education for graduate admissions, such as the GRE.

### Eliminate basic skills test requirement.

The state's requirement that alternate route candidates pass a basic skills test is impractical and ineffectual, although Maryland is recognized for allowing candidates to use equivalent scores to fulfill this admission criterion. Basic skills tests measure minimum competency—essentially those skills that a person should have acquired in middle school—and are inappropriate for candidates who have already earned a bachelor's degree. Passage of a basic skills test provides no assurance that the candidate has the appropriate subject-matter knowledge needed for the classroom.

62: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011
MARYLAND

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland contended that NCTQ's analysis does not clearly reflect either the intent or the reality of the requirements for alternative candidates to enter MAAPP.

The state explained that although a passing score on a subject-matter test is not required for entry to MAAPP, it is required before the candidates assume responsibilities as teacher of record. Also, Maryland asserted that despite the state policy that sets a minimum 2.75 GPA requirement, "this is not part of the regulation. No minimum GPA is mentioned in regulation. Programs wishing to enroll a candidate whose GPA falls short of 2.75 may request a waiver of the requirement, citing relevancy and extent of experiences the candidate brings which mitigate the shortfall in actual grades. The state's general stance is to grant such waivers."

Maryland added that it believes that all teacher candidates, regardless of program route, should meet the same basic skills assessment requirement. The state reiterated that candidates are required to pass both the Praxis I test of basic skills and the Praxis II content exam in the area for which certification is sought. The SAT, ACT, or GRE equivalents may be used to meet the basic skills requirement.

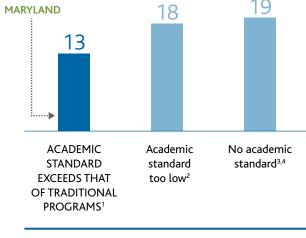
#### LAST WORD

It is unclear to NCTQ where the disagreement about "the intent or reality of the requirements" for admission lies, since the analysis and score are generally positive. The only weakness identified is that the state does not require subject-matter tests as a condition of admission for all applicants. While Maryland does require this for certification, the state should consider why it would allow admission to its alternate route to a candidate lacking sufficient content knowledge.



Figure 47

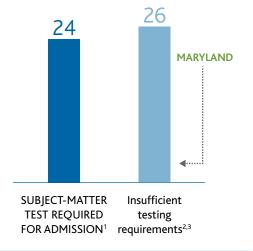
Do states require alternate routes to be selective?



- Strong Practice: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee
- Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 48

Do states ensure that alternate route teachers have subject-matter knowledge?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut<sup>4</sup>, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois<sup>4</sup>, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- 2. State does not require test at all, exempts some candidates or does not require passage until program completion. Alaska, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 4. Required prior to entering the classroom.

Figure 46

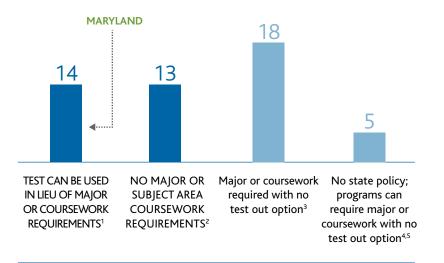
1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.



The **District of Columbia** and **Michigan** require candidates to demonstrate above-average academic performance as conditions of admission to an alternate route program, with both requiring applicants to have a minimum 3.0 GPA. In addition, neither state requires a content-specific major; subject-area knowledge is demonstrated by passing a test, making their alternate routes flexible to the needs of nontraditional candidates.

Figure 49

Do states accommodate the nontraditional background of alternate route candidates?



Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Colorado, Connecticut<sup>6</sup>, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

- 5. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Test out option available to candidates in shortage areas only.

<sup>2.</sup> Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Virginia, Washington

<sup>3.</sup> Alaska, Delaware, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming

<sup>4.</sup> Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, New Mexico, Wisconsin

# **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal B – Alternate Route Preparation

The state should ensure that its alternate routes provide streamlined preparation that is relevant to the immediate needs of new teachers.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should ensure that the amount of coursework it either requires or allows is manageable for a novice teacher. Anything exceeding 12 credit hours of coursework in the first year may be counterproductive, placing too great a burden on the teacher. This calculation is premised on no more than six credit hours in the summer, three in the fall and three in the spring.
- 2. The state should ensure that alternate route programs offer accelerated study not to exceed six (three credit) courses for secondary teachers and eight (three credit) courses for elementary teachers (exclusive of any credit for practice teaching or mentoring) over the duration of the program. Programs should be limited to two years, at which time the new teacher should be eligible for a standard certificate.
- All coursework requirements should target the immediate needs of the new teacher (e.g., seminars with other grade-level teachers, training in a particular curriculum, reading instruction and classroom management techniques).
- 4. The state should ensure that candidates have an opportunity to practice teach in a summer training program. Alternatively, the state can require an intensive mentoring experience, beginning with a trained mentor assigned full time to the new teacher for the first critical weeks of school and then gradually reduced. The state should support only induction strategies that can be effective even in a poorly managed school: intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area, a reduced teaching load and frequent release time to observe effective teachers.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 2: Goal B Maryland Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland offers an alternate route with streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers.

Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Program (MAAPP) candidates must complete a minimum of 90 hours of study that may consist of a combination of semester hours and clock hours and includes elementary reading processes and acquisition or secondary teaching reading in the content areas. The training must include a focus on the teaching and learning skills necessary for immediate success as a teacher of record, including classroom management, lesson planning, and state and local school system priorities.

Candidates complete a four-to-eight-week pre-service training program that includes a supervised internship. The state requires teachers to receive intensive coaching or mentoring throughout the two-year program.

Upon completion of the program, teachers are eligible for a Standard Professional Certificate.

### **Supporting Research**

 $http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/certification/progapproval/maapp\_10\_07.htm$ 

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

## ■ Ensure that new teachers are not burdened by excessive requirements.

Alternate route programs should not be permitted to overburden the new teacher by requiring multiple courses to be taken simultaneously during the school year. Setting minimum requirements, without established maximums, does not ensure that the new teacher will be able to complete the program in an appropriate amount of time without being overburdened by coursework.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. Further, the state noted that in addition to the 90 preservice instructional hours, the supervised internship is at least 128 hours. The state asserted that this streamlined approach balances both focused instruction and practicum hours. Therefore, candidates engage in at least 218 hours of preparation and clinical experience, which the state contended "assure[s] classroom success."

Maryland explained that both supervisors and mentors are trained to function in the context of the individual preparation programs. The state is working to design a framework for coaching and mentoring to be used by all alternate route programs by the fall 2012; the framework is currently being piloted.

In terms of outlining specific coursework requirements, the state asserted that the current documents outline outcomes showing that standards have been met, not coursework. "Performance-based training and assessment in most assessment systems, both traditional and alternative, have moved well away from suggesting certain courses and toward assessing outcomes. That accountability to meeting standards is part of the State Program Approval process, and is functional in current practice; however, that fact should be made clearer in public documents."





## **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

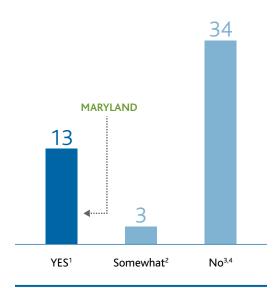
Connecticut ensures that its alternate route provides streamlined preparation that meets the immediate needs of new teachers. The state requires a manageable number of credit hours, relevant coursework, a field placement and intensive mentoring. Other notable states include Arkansas, Delaware, Georgia and New Jersey. These states provide streamlined, relevant coursework with intensive mentoring.

<sup>1.</sup> Florida requires practice teaching or intensive mentoring.

<sup>2</sup> North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 52

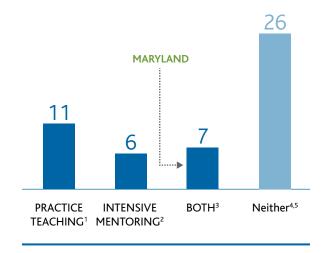
Do states curb excessive coursework requirements?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Virginia
- 2. Indiana, Nevada, Wyoming
- 3. Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 53

Do states require practice teaching or intensive mentoring?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia
- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia
- 3. Strong Practice: Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida<sup>6</sup>, Maryland, Massachusetts
- Alabama, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- $5.\ North$  Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 6. Candidates are required to have one or the other, not both.

# **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

# Goal C – Alternate Route Usage and Providers

The state should provide an alternate route that is free from regulatory obstacles that limit its usage and providers.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should not treat the alternate route as a program of last resort or restrict the availability of alternate routes to certain subjects, grades or geographic areas.
- The state should allow districts and nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education to operate alternate route programs.
- 3. The state should ensure that its alternate route has no requirements that would be difficult to meet for a provider that is not an institution of higher education (e.g., an approval process based on institutional accreditation).

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 2: Goal C Maryland Analysis



State Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not limit the usage or providers of its alternate route programs.

Maryland is commended for having no restrictions on the usage of its alternate route programs with regard to subject, grade or geographic areas.

Maryland sets out coursework requirements in clock hours and allows for a diversity of program providers, authorizing colleges, universities, school districts and nonprofits organizations, such as The New Teacher Project and Teach For America, to operate programs.

### **Supporting Research**

Maryland Rule 13A.12.01.07

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.





## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Twenty-six states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends all states that permit both broad usage and a diversity of providers for their alternate routes.

Figure 56 Can alternate route teachers teach any subject or grade anywhere in the state?

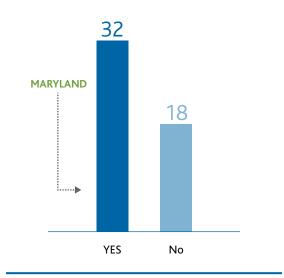
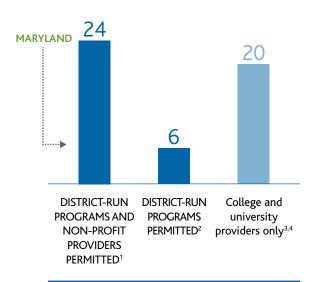


Figure 55 and 56

- 1. Alabama offers routes without restrictions for candidates with master's degrees. The route for candidates with bachelor's degrees is limited to
- 2. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

Figure 57

Do states permit providers other than colleges or universities?



- Strong Practice: Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina, Vermont<sup>5</sup>, West Virginia
- Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho<sup>6</sup>, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi<sup>6</sup>, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey<sup>7</sup>, New Mexico, Oregon, South Carolina<sup>6</sup>, South Dakota, Utah<sup>6</sup>, Wyoming
- 4. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.
- 5. Districts can run Peer Review programs only.
- 6. ABCTE is also an approved provider.
- 7. Permits school districts to provide programs without university partnerships in some circumstances.

GENUINE OR NEARLY
GENUINE ALTERNATE ROUTE ∫ Offered route is disingenuous Figure 58 Alternate oute that need significant improvements Do states provide real alternative pathways to certification? Alabama Alaska Arizona П Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia П П Hawaii П Idaho П Illinois П Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky П Louisiana Maine П **MARYLAND** П П Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico П П New York North Carolina North Dakota<sup>1</sup> П П Ohio П П Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina П South Dakota Tennessee П П Texas Utah Vermont Virginia П Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 7 25 18

Figure 58

1. North Dakota does not have an alternate route to certification.

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## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal D – Part-Time Teaching Licenses

The state should offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. Either through a discrete license or by waiving most licensure requirements, the state should authorize individuals with content expertise to teach as part-time instructors.
- 2. All candidates for a part-time teaching license should be required to pass a subjectmatter test.
- 3. Other requirements for this license should be limited to those addressing public safety (e.g., background screening) and those of immediate use to the novice instructor (e.g., classroom management training).

#### **Background**



## Area 2: Goal D Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal Progress Since 2009



#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not offer a license with minimal requirements that would allow content experts to teach part time.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Offer a license that allows content experts to serve as part-time instructors.

Maryland should permit individuals with deep subject-area knowledge to teach a limited number of courses without fulfilling a complete set of certification requirements. The state should verify content knowledge through a rigorous test and conduct background checks as appropriate, while waiving all other licensure requirements. Such a license would increase districts' flexibility to staff certain subjects, including many STEM areas, that are frequently hard to staff or may not have high enough enrollment to necessitate a full-time position.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of NCTQ's analysis. The state added that "as a first step toward developing routes to assist content-strong but non-credentialed teachers to teach on a limited or parttime basis, a revision to COMAR entitled the Specialized Professional will be presented to the MSEB August 2011. If approved, this provision will bring greater flexibility for specialized areas of public school teaching not otherwise easy to staff with traditionally certified teachers."

#### **Supporting Research**

Maryland Rule 13A.1

### **LAST WORD**

NCTQ looks forward to reviewing the state's progress in future editions of the Yearbook.

#### Figure 61 Do states offer a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part-time? YES No Alabama Alaska Arizona Arkansas California Colorado Connecticut Delaware District of Columbia Florida Georgia Hawaii Idaho Illinois Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Louisiana Maine MARYLAND Massachusetts Michigan Minnesota П Mississippi Missouri Montana Nebraska Nevada New Hampshire New Jersey New Mexico New York 2 П North Carolina North Dakota Ohio Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island South Carolina South Dakota Tennessee Texas Utah Vermont Virginia 2 Washington West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming 16 35



## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Arkansas offers a license with minimal requirements that allows content experts to teach part time. Individuals seeking this license must pass a subject-matter test and are also required to complete specially-designed pedagogy training that is not overly burdensome.

<sup>1.</sup> License has restrictions.

<sup>2.</sup> It appears that the state has a license that may be used for this purpose; guidelines are vague.

## **Area 2: Expanding the Pool of Teachers**

## Goal E – Licensure Reciprocity

The state should help to make licenses fully portable among states, with appropriate safeguards.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should offer a standard license to fully certified teachers moving from other states, without relying on transcript analysis or recency requirements as a means of judging eligibility. The state can and should require evidence of good standing in previous employment.
- 2. The state should uphold its standards for all teachers by insisting that certified teachers coming from other states meet the incoming state's testing requirements.
- The state should accord the same license to teachers from other states who completed an approved alternate route program that it accords teachers prepared in a traditional preparation program.

### **Background**



## Area 2: Goal E **Maryland** Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not support licensure reciprocity for certified teachers from other states.

Regrettably, Maryland grants a waiver of its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has completed a state-approved program and has at least two years of experience.

Teachers with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates may be eligible for Maryland's professional certification. Those who completed a traditional preparation program and earned a professional license may apply for Maryland's equivalent license. However, transcripts are required for all applicants. It is not clear whether the state analyzes transcripts to determine whether a teacher was prepared through a traditional or alternate route or whether additional coursework will be required.

Maryland is also a participant in the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement; however, the latest iteration of this agreement no longer purports to be a reciprocity agreement among states and thus is no longer included in this analysis.

#### **Supporting Research**

Code of Maryland Regulations, 13A.12.01.04, -.07

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

To uphold standards, require that teachers coming from other states meet testing requirements.

Maryland takes considerable risk by granting a waiver for its licensing tests to any out-of-state teacher who has two years of teaching experience. The state should not provide any waivers of its teacher tests unless an applicant can provide evidence of a passing score under its own standards. The negative impact on student learning stemming from a teacher's inadequate subject-matter knowledge is not mitigated by the teacher's having experience.

Accord the same license to out-of-state alternate route teachers as would be accorded to traditionally prepared teachers.

Maryland should consider discontinuing its requirement for the submission of transcripts. Transcript analysis is likely to result in additional coursework requirements, even for traditionally prepared teachers; alternate route teachers, on the other hand, may have to virtually begin anew, repeating some, most or all of a teacher preparation program in Maryland.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that transcripts are required for all candidates to verify that degree requirements have been met. For teachers with professional licensure who meet the experienced professional requirement, no differentiation is made regarding preparation route. Therefore, those experienced individuals who earn licensure through alternate pathways elsewhere are treated the same way as experienced professionals with traditional route preparation.

Maryland added that it carefully evaluates alternate preparation routes from other states to assess alignment with the state's standards. Individuals may, based on program alignment, receive either a Resident Teacher Certificate (if program requirements in the originating state have not been completed), or a Standard Professional Certificate.

The state also contended that it does not waive the testing requirement for initial certification unless the individual has a valid out-of-state professional certificate and verification of three years of satisfactory experience within the past seven years in the certificate area being sought. Teachers with fewer than three years may meet initial certification requirements in one of the following ways: complete a Maryland approved program and present qualifying scores on Maryland tests, or complete an out-of-state approved program and present a valid professional certificate and the tests used to obtain that certificate.

"Initial certification by transcript analysis is but one pathway to initial certification. Although the use of this pathway has diminished over time, this pathway does provide an option for individuals who have degrees in a variety of content areas and prescribes relevant professional education coursework. Individuals completing approved programs are not subject to a transcript analysis."

Further, Maryland noted that it is currently proposing regulation changes recommended by the Certification Re-Structuring Work Group convened by the Professional Standards in Teacher Education Board. The proposal recommends a two-tiered structure that provides for both licensure and certification, the award of the latter depending in part on satisfactory or effective teaching and evidence of student growth. If these changes are made, all educators will receive initial licensure, but only those who have satisfactory evaluations as determined through performance-based assessments, including evidence of student growth, would be awarded certification.

Finally, the state pointed out that even under the current structure, teachers from recognized programs such as Teach For America would be eligible to obtain licensure in Maryland assuming they successfully completed their program in another state and received that state's initial professional certifications. They must also present qualifying scores used to obtain the out-of-state professional certificate.

### **LAST WORD**

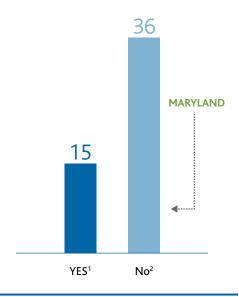
The state's response indicates a commitment to reciprocity that unfortunately is not reflected in policy. Maryland should review its rules and procedures to ensure that they are not creating unnecessary obstacles, or even the perception of such obstacles, which could dissuade talented teachers from other states from seeking licensure in Maryland.



## EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alabama and Texas appropriately support licensure reciprocity by only requiring certified teachers from other states to meet each state's own testing requirements and by not specifying any additional coursework or recency requirements to determine eligibility for either traditional or alternate route teachers.

Figure 63 Do states require all out-of-state teachers to pass their licensure tests?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York<sup>3</sup>, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania<sup>3</sup>, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington<sup>3</sup>, Wisconsin
- 2. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana<sup>4</sup>, Nebraska<sup>4</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Exception for teachers with National Board Certification.
- 4. No subject-matter testing for any teacher certification.

Figure 64

- 1. For traditionally prepared teachers only.
- 2. Transcript review required for those with less than 3 years experience.



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## Goal A – State Data Systems

The state should have a data system that contributes some of the evidence needed to assess teacher effectiveness.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should establish a longitudinal data system with at least the following key components:
  - a. A unique statewide student identifier number that connects student data across key databases across years;
  - b. A unique teacher identifier system that can match individual teacher records with individual student records; and
  - c. An assessment system that can match individual student test records from year to year in order to measure academic growth.
- 2. Value-added data provided through the state's longitudinal data system should be considered among the criteria used to determine teachers' effectiveness.
- 3. To ensure that data provided through the state data system is actionable and reliable, the state should have a clear definition of "teacher of record" and require its consistent use statewide.

### **Background**



# Area 3: Goal A Maryland Analysis



State Meets Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland now has a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Maryland has all three necessary elements of a student- and teacher-level longitudinal data system. The state has assigned unique student identifiers that connect student data across key databases across years and has assigned unique teacher identifiers that enable it to match individual teacher records with individual student records. It also has the capacity to match student test records from year to year in order to measure student academic growth.

### **Supporting Research**

Data Quality Campaign www.dataqualitycampaign.org

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

## Develop a clear definition of "teacher of record."

Maryland has not yet established a definition of teacher of record, which is essential in order to use the student-data link for teacher evaluation and related purposes. To ensure that data provided through the state data system are actionable and reliable, Maryland should articulate a definition of teacher of record and require its consistent use throughout the state.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland was helpful in providing NCTQ with the facts necessary for this analysis. The state added that it released individual student growth data (a modified version of the Colorado growth model) to the seven pilot systems last August as required by the Teacher Evaluation Project. Maryland also noted that, along with Local Education Agencies, it is currently exploring a definition for the term teacher of record for official accountability purposes. Although there is a preliminary definition being used for data-collection purposes, the state is analyzing collected data and getting feedback from teachers and other stakeholders before this definition is finalized.

Figure 67  Do state data systems have the capacity to assess teacher effectiveness?	
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## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, it commends the 35 states that have a data system with the capacity to provide evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Key

indicates that the state assigns teacher identification numbers, but it cannot match individual teacher records with individual student records.

## Goal B – Evaluation of Effectiveness

The state should require instructional effectiveness to be the preponderant criterion of any teacher evaluation.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should either require a common evaluation instrument in which evidence of student learning is the most significant criterion or specifically require that student learning be the preponderant criterion in local evaluation processes. Evaluation instruments, whether state or locally developed, should be structured to preclude a teacher from receiving a satisfactory rating if found ineffective in the classroom.
- 2. Evaluation instruments should require classroom observations that focus on and document the effectiveness of instruction.
- 3. Teacher evaluations should consider objective evidence of student learning, including not only standardized test scores but also classroom-based artifacts such as tests, quizzes and student work.
- 4. The state should require that evaluation instruments differentiate among various levels of teacher performance. A binary system that merely categorizes teachers as satisfactory or unsatisfactory is inadequate.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

### **Background**



## Area 3: Goal B Maryland Analysis



State Meets Goal





Bar Raised for this Goal Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Commendably, Maryland requires that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

According to recent legislation, student growth must account for a "significant" portion of a teacher's performance evaluation and must be one of the multiple measures used. No single criterion is allowed to count for more than 35 percent of the total performance evaluation. However, although regulations drafted by the State Board of Education limit any single component of student growth, such as standardized test scores, to 35 percent, they allow additional measures of student progress for a total of 50 percent.

Further, classroom observations are required. Evaluators involved in the state's pilot programs must use the following multiple rating categories: highly effective, effective and ineffective.

## **Supporting Research**

Education Reform Act of 2010

COMAR 13a.07.04

Maryland Board of Education Resolution #1973-49

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.





### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

NCTQ has not singled out any one state for "best practice" honors. Many states have made significant strides in the area of teacher evaluation by requiring that objective evidence of student learning be the preponderant criterion. Because there are many different approaches that result in student learning being the preponderant criterion, all 10 states that meet this goal are commended for their efforts.

#### Figure 70

Using state data in teacher evaluations

States with Requirements for Student Achievement Data but Lacking Data System Capacity

Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Michigan, Nevada

States with Data System Capacity but No Student Achievement Requirements

Alabama, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin

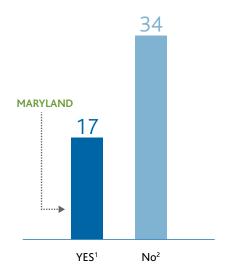
<sup>1.</sup> District of Columbia Public Schools requires that student learning be the preponderant criterion of its teacher evaluations.

Figure 71 Sources of objective evidence of student learning

Many educators struggle to identify possible sources of objective student data. Here are some examples:

- Standardized test scores
- Periodic diagnostic assessments
- Benchmark assessments that show student growth
- Artifacts of student work connected to specific student learning standards that are randomly selected for review by the principal or senior faculty, scored using rubrics and descriptors
- Examples of typical assignments, assessed for their quality and rigor
- Periodic checks on progress with the curriculum coupled with evidence of student mastery of the curriculum from quizzes, tests and exams

Figure 72 Do states require more than two categories for teacher evaluation ratings?



- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

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<sup>1.</sup> State approval required.

<sup>2.</sup> The state model is presumptive; districts need state approval to opt out.

## Goal C – Frequency of Evaluations

The state should require annual evaluations of all teachers.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that all teachers receive a formal evaluation rating each year.
- 2. While all teachers should have multiple observations that contribute to their formal evaluation rating, the state should ensure that new teachers are observed and receive feedback early in the school year.

### Background



## Area 3: Goal C Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Regrettably, Maryland does not ensure that all teachers are evaluated annually.

Although teachers holding standard certificates in Maryland must be evaluated annually, those holding advanced certificates must only be evaluated twice during the five-year validity period of their license, with the first evaluation occurring during the initial year of the certificate. All evaluations must be based on at least two observations.

Maryland requires new teachers to be evaluated at least twice a year. Probationary teachers must be formally evaluated, including a conference, at least once a semester.

#### **Supporting Research**

COMAR 13a.07.04.02

Maryland Board of Education Resolution #1973-49

#### RECOMMENDATION

### Require annual formal evaluations for all teachers.

All teachers in Maryland should be evaluated annually, regardless of the type of license they hold. Rather than treated as mere formalities, these teacher evaluations should serve as important tools for rewarding good teachers, helping average teachers improve and holding weak teachers accountable for poor performance.

## Consider feasibility of multiple evaluation ratings in a single year for new teachers.

As evaluation instruments become more data driven, it may not be feasible to issue multiple formal evaluation ratings during a single year. While multiple observations with feedback are critical, applicable student data will likely not be available to support multiple ratings.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that 22 of 24 local school systems have agreed to the terms of its Race to the Top application, which articulates the following: "Every teacher and principal shall be evaluated at least once annually."

Maryland noted that it is under continuing discussion by the Educator Effectiveness Council as to how this should be accomplished. Pilot projects in seven school systems in 2011-2012 from which data will be collected will be followed, with full no-fault implementation in all Maryland districts in 2012-2013, and full implementation in 2013-2014. The state's intent is for all local school systems to commit to annual evaluations.

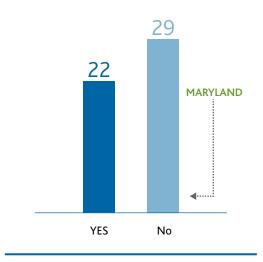
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Wisconsin		
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## **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Although not awarding "best practice" honors for frequency of evaluations, NCTQ commends all nine states that meet this goal not only by requiring annual evaluations for all teachers, but also for ensuring that new teachers are observed and receive feedback during the first half of the school year.

Figure 76 Do states require districts to evaluate all teachers each year?

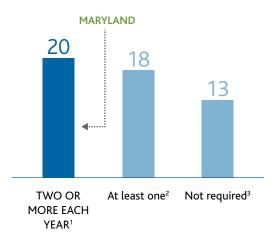


Figures 75 and 76

- 1. Although highly effective teachers are only required to receive a summative evaluation once every two years, the student improvement component is evaluated annually.
- 2. All District of Columbia Public Schools teachers are evaluated at least annually.

Figure 77

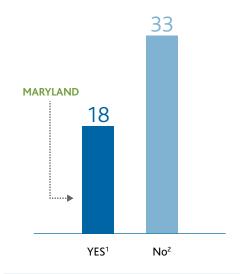
Do states require classroom observations?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska<sup>4</sup>, Arkansas, Colorado<sup>4</sup>, Delaware, Florida<sup>4</sup>, Georgia, Kentucky<sup>4</sup>, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri<sup>4</sup>, Nevada<sup>4</sup>, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon<sup>4</sup>, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia<sup>4</sup>
- Arizona, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin
- 3. District of Columbia, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. For new teachers.

Figure 78

Do states require that new teachers are observed early in the year?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, West Virginia
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

## Goal D - Tenure

The state should require that tenure decisions are based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- A teacher should be eligible for tenure after a certain number of years of service, but tenure should not be granted automatically at that juncture.
- 2. Evidence of effectiveness should be the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
- The state should articulate a process, such as a hearing, that local districts must administer in considering the evidence and deciding whether a teacher should receive tenure.
- 4. The minimum years of service needed to achieve tenure should allow sufficient data to be accumulated on which to base tenure decisions; five years is the ideal minimum.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

## Background



## Area 3: Goal D Maryland Analysis







#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not connect tenure decisions to evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Teachers in Maryland are awarded tenure automatically after a three-year probationary period, absent an additional process that evaluates cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness.

#### Supporting Research

Annotated Code of Maryland 6-202(b)(1)

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

End the automatic awarding of tenure.

The decision to grant tenure should be a deliberate one, based on consideration of a teacher's commitment and actual evidence of classroom effectiveness.

- Ensure evidence of effectiveness is the preponderant criterion in tenure decisions.
  - Maryland should make evidence of effectiveness, rather than the number of years in the classroom, the most significant factor when determining this leap in professional standing.
- Articulate a process that local districts must administer when deciding which teachers get

Maryland should require a clear process, such as a hearing, to ensure that the local district reviews a teacher's performance before making a determination regarding tenure.

Require a longer probationary period.

Maryland should extend its probationary period, ideally to five years. This would allow for an adequate collection of sufficient data that reflect teacher performance.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that the statement regarding its lack of any sort of process that would ensure that tenure decisions are meaningful is not accurate. The state makes clear that tenure after three years can only be granted if the employee is qualified based on established performance evaluation criteria. Further, the Education Reform Act of 2010 requires a mentoring support system be in place for all new teachers during the three-year probationary period. Additional support must be provided for new teachers experiencing problems with their performance.

### Supporting Research

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Section 6-202(b)(2)(i)

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

The state has not presented any evidence that an additional process evaluating cumulative evidence of teacher effectiveness is required for tenure.

	No policy	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	STATE ONLY AWARDS ANNUAL CONTRACTS
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Alaska							
Arizona							
Arkansas							
California							
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Virginia							
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West Virginia							
Wisconsin							
Wyoming							
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Teachers may also earn career status with an average rating of at least effective for a four-year period and a rating of at least effective for the last two years.

<sup>2.</sup> Teachers who receive two years of ineffective evaluations are dismissed.





## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Michigan has increased its probationary period to five years and requires that evidence of effectiveness be the primary criterion in awarding tenure.

Figure 82 How are tenure decisions made?

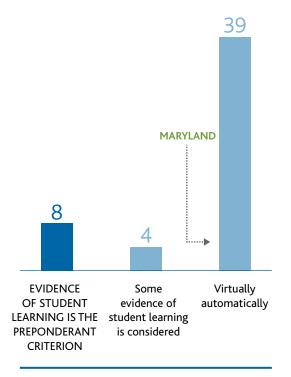


Figure 81

- 1. No state-level policy; however, the contract between DCPS and the teachers' union represents significant advancement in the area of
- 2. The state has created a loophole by essentially waiving student learning requirements and allowing the principal of a school to petition for career-teacher status.

## Goal E – Licensure Advancement

The state should base licensure advancement on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should base advancement from a probationary to a nonprobationary license on evidence of teacher effectiveness.
- 2. The state should not require teachers to fulfill generic, unspecified coursework requirements to advance from a probationary to a nonprobationary license.
- 3. The state should not require teachers to have an advanced degree as a condition of professional licensure.
- 4. Evidence of effectiveness should be a factor in the renewal of a professional license.



The components for this goal have changed since 2009. In light of state progress on this topic, the bar for this goal has been raised.

### **Background**



## Area 3: Goal E **Maryland** Analysis







**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland's requirements for licensure advancement and renewal are not based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

Maryland offers four types of teacher certifications. The Professional Eligibility Certificate is issued to teachers not currently employed in the state. The Standard Professional Certificate I (SPC I) is issued to those already employed by a local school system. To advance to the Standard Professional Certificate II (SPC II), teachers must complete the SPC I, have three years of "satisfactory professional experience," six semester hours of credit and a professional development plan for the Advanced Professional Certificate (APC). To advance to the APC, teachers must have three years' full-time, school-related experience; six semester hours of credit; and either a master's degree or a minimum of 36 semester hours of postbaccalaureate coursework. It appears that there are renewal restrictions on the first three certifications, ultimately requiring teachers to advance to the APC.

Maryland does not include effectiveness as a factor in the renewal of a professional license. Maryland teachers must renew their professional or standard licenses every five years by completing six semester hours of acceptable credit at an accredited institution of higher learning.

#### Supporting Research

http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/certification\_branch/certification\_inf/renew/prior\_1995

#### RECOMMENDATION

Require evidence of effectiveness for licensure decisions.

Maryland commendably connects its strong evaluation system (see Goal 3-B) to licensure advancement. However, states must consider carefully how to use this evidence, as the standard for denying licensure—the right to practice in the state—should not necessarily be the same standard that might result in termination from a particular position. Further, the state should also factor evaluation evidence into decisions about license renewal.

Discontinue license requirements with no direct connection to classroom effectiveness.

While targeted requirements may potentially expand teacher knowledge and improve teacher practice, Maryland's general, nonspecific coursework requirements for license advancement and renewal merely call for teachers to complete a certain amount of seat time. These requirements do not correlate with teacher effectiveness.

■ End requirement tying teacher advancement to master's degrees.

Maryland should remove its mandate that teachers obtain a master's degree for any level of license advancement. Research is conclusive and emphatic that master's degrees do not have any significant correlation to classroom performance. Rather, advancement should be based on evidence of teacher effectiveness.

100: NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MARYI AND

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis. The state added that Maryland regulation delineates the requirements for advancement from one certificate level to the next. Earned credits must be related to the teacher's assignment, and to advance from the Standard Professional Certificate I to a Standard Professional Certificate II, the local school system must present verification of a minimum of three years of satisfactory school-related experience, in addition to coursework requirements. This experience requirement must also be fulfilled to progress to the Advanced Professional Certificate.

Maryland also noted that teachers are required to complete a professional development plan in agreement with the local superintendent of schools. All teachers are expected to engage in ongoing professional development through in-service, undergraduate or graduate coursework. This coursework must be tailored to the instructional needs of the teacher though school system collaboration that facilitates individualization. Thus, the requirement for continuous learning involves more than "seat time" and absolutely does not require an advanced degree.

Finally, if recommendations of the Certification Structure Workgroup are approved, a two-tiered licensure/certification structure would incorporate the performance of teachers into its implementation, including evidence of PK-12 student growth.

Supporting Research COMAR 13A.12.01.05, .06

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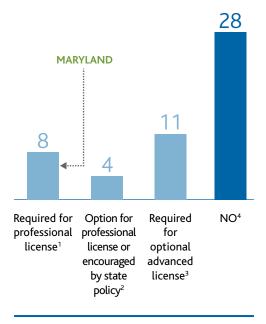


## **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Rhode Island is integrating certification, certification renewal and educator evaluation. Teachers who receive poor evaluations for five consecutive years are not eligible to renew their certification. In addition, teachers who consistently receive 'highly effective' ratings will be eligible for a special license designation.

Figure 85

Do states require teachers to earn advanced degrees before conferring professional licensure?

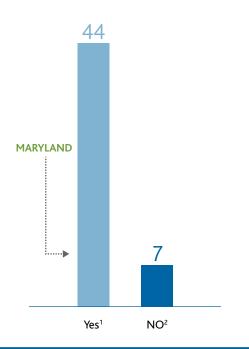


- 1. Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New York and Oregon all require a master's degree or coursework equivalent to a master's degree
- 2. Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia
- 4. Strong Practice: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

- 1. Illinois allows revocation of licenses based on ineffectiveness.
- 2. Maryland uses some objective evidence through their evaluation system for renewal, but advancement to professional license is still based on earning an advanced degree.

Figure 86

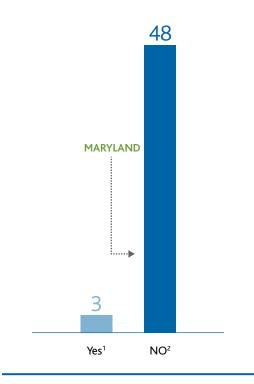
Do states require teachers to take additional, nonspecific coursework before conferring or renewing professional licenses?



- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 2. Strong Practice: California, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island

Figure 87

Do states award lifetime professional licenses?



- 1. New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

## Goal F – Equitable Distribution

The state should publicly report districts' distribution of teacher talent among schools to identify inequities in schools serving disadvantaged children.

## **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

The state should make the following data publicly available:

- An "Academic Quality" index for each school that includes factors research has found to be associated with teacher effectiveness, such as:
  - a. percentage of new teachers;
  - b. percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once;
  - c. percentage of teachers on emergency credentials;
  - d. average selectivity of teachers' undergraduate institutions; and
  - e. teachers' average ACT or SAT scores;
- The percentage of highly qualified teachers disaggregated by both individual school and by teaching area;
- The annual teacher absenteeism rate reported for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school;
- 4. The average teacher turnover rate for the previous three years, disaggregated by individual school, by district and by reasons that teachers leave.

## **Background**



## Area 3: Goal F Maryland Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Providing comprehensive reporting may be the state's most important role for ensuring the equitable distribution of teachers among schools. Maryland reports little school-level data that can help support the equitable distribution of teacher talent.

Maryland does not collect or publicly report most of the data recommended by NCTQ. The state does not provide a school-level teacher quality index that demonstrates the academic backgrounds of a school's teachers and the ratio of new to veteran teachers. Maryland also does not report on teacher absenteeism or turnover rates.

Maryland does report the percentage of highly qualified teachers. Commendably, these data are reported for each school, rather than aggregated by district. The state also reports on the percentage of teachers by years of experience at the district level.

#### **Supporting Research**

Maryland 2010 School Performance Report

http://msp2010.msde.state.md.us/printreports/2010/15/SchoolReports/English/150424\_2010ReportCard.pdf

Professional Staff by Type of Degree and Years of Experience Oct 2010

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/CAFE5C56-843C-4D45-8DDB-D7D26146E60F/28477/prodeg11.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

### ■ Use a teacher quality index to report publicly about each school.

A teacher quality index, such as the one developed by the Illinois Education Research Council, with data including teachers' average SAT or ACT scores, the percentage of teachers failing basic skills licensure tests at least once, the selectivity of teachers' undergraduate colleges and the percentage of new teachers, can shine a light on how equitably teachers are distributed both across and within districts. Maryland should ensure that individual school report cards include such data in a manner that translates these factors into something easily understood by the public, such as a color-coded matrix indicating a school's high or low score.

### Publish other data that facilitate comparisons across schools.

Maryland should collect and report other school level data that reflect the stability of a school's faculty, including the rates of teacher absenteeism and turnover.

## Provide comparative data based on school demographics.

Providing comparative data for schools with similar poverty and minority populations would yield an even more comprehensive picture of gaps in the equitable distribution of teachers.

#### Report data at the school level.

Maryland should ensure that it is reporting all currently collected data at the school-level, rather than aggregated by district.

## MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

As indicated in the analysis, Maryland reiterated that it does report on the number of highly qualified teachers in the Maryland Teacher Staffing Report: 2008-2010.

Maryland also pointed out that the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), funded through ARRA, outlined requirements that involve data collection, analysis and planning in response to indicators related to teacher evaluation and performance. As of June 30, 2011, all local school systems are required to update their web link to include the summary performance of teachers by individual school.

### **State Response Citation**

Maryland Teacher Staffing Report: 2008-2010 http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/F3F5D904-0F5E-4FC7-87CE-464FC17DABB5/18552/MarylandTeacherStaffingReport20082010.pdf

ARRA State Fiscal Stabilization Fund http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/arra/sfsf2

#### **LAST WORD**

NCTQ is unable to find a point of disagreement. This analysis indicates that the state reports on highly qualified teachers. The state's other points deal with teacher evaluation and performance, which while important to teacher distribution, are discussed in other goals. This goal only discusses reporting.

106 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MARYLAND

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No state has an outstanding record when it comes to public reporting of teacher data that can help to ameliorate inequities in teacher quality. However, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island and South Carolina report more school-level data than other states.

Ideally, percentage of new teachers and percentage of teachers on emergency credentials would be incorporated into a teacher quality index.

## Goal A - Induction

The state should require effective induction for all new teachers, with special emphasis on teachers in high-needs schools.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should ensure that new teachers receive mentoring of sufficient frequency and duration, especially in the first critical weeks of school.
- Mentors should be carefully selected based on evidence of their own classroom effectiveness and subject-matter expertise. Mentors should be trained, and their performance as mentors should be evaluated.
- Induction programs should include only strategies that can be successfully implemented, even in a poorly managed school. Such strategies include intensive mentoring, seminars appropriate to grade level or subject area, a reduced teaching load and frequent release time to observe effective teachers.

### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal A Maryland Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland requires that all new teachers receive mentoring. The state requires that each local school system design a program incorporating components established by the state, including: an orientation program for new teachers prior to the start of the school year, mentor support such as regularly scheduled meetings during non-instructional time, opportunities for new teachers to observe and co-teach with skilled teachers with follow-up discussion of the experiences, ongoing professional learning activities, and ongoing formative review of new teacher performance such as classroom observation.

Local school systems are encouraged, but not required, to provide a reduction in teaching schedule during induction. All teachers must participate in induction activities for a minimum of one year. The maximum ratio of mentors to mentees is one mentor to 15 mentees. Mentors should have the following skills: knowledge of adult learning theory and peer coaching techniques, the knowledge base and skill to address performance evaluation criteria and outcomes to be met by each mentee, an advanced professional certificate or be retired from the local school system, a positive reference from principal or supervisor. Local school systems will evaluate their teacher induction program.

### **Supporting Research**

Maryland Teacher Induction
http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/NR/rdonlyres/841ABD3D-FC95-47AB-BB74-BD3C85A1EFB8/24877/
Teacher\_Induction\_FS88.pdf
Code of Maryland Annotated Regulations (COMAR) 13A.07.01

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

## Expand guidelines to include other key areas.

While still leaving districts flexibility, Maryland should articulate minimum guidelines for a high-quality induction experience. The state should require that mentors spend sufficient time with new teachers, especially in the first critical weeks of school. It should also require mentors to be trained in a content area or grade level similar to that of the new teacher.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland noted that specific criteria are in place for development of induction programs. The state requires orientation for all teachers new to the local system; ongoing support from a mentor, including regularly scheduled meetings during non-instructional time, co-teaching opportunities, an ongoing professional development, and ongoing formative review of new teacher performance.

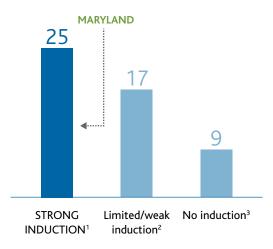
Supporting Research COMAR 13A.07.01.04

Figure 91		/ چ	MENTORING PROLITION	CARFU SUCTION	MENTORS MUSE.	/ Æ	5 /	USE OF A MAREN OF EFFECTIVE
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South Carolina requires that all new teachers, prior to the start of the school year, be assigned mentors for at least one year. Districts carefully select mentors based on experience and similar certifications and grade levels, and mentors undergo additional training. Adequate release time is mandated by the state so that mentors and new teachers may observe each other in the classroom, collaborate on effective teaching techniques and develop professional growth plans. Mentor evaluations are mandatory and stipends are recommended.

Figure 92
Do states have policies that articulate the elements of effective induction?



- Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia
- Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Nevada, New Hampshire, Vermont, Wyoming

## Goal B - Professional Development

The state should require professional development to be based on needs identified through teacher evaluations.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.
- 2. The state should direct districts to align professional development activities with findings from teachers' evaluations.

## Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal B Maryland Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland requires that teachers receive written evaluation reports following an evaluation. Although, the state specifies that professional development plans will be provided for teachers identified as not on track to qualify for tenure, Maryland does not connect professional development activities to the results of teacher evaluations.

### Supporting Research

Education Reform Act of 2010 COMAR 13A.07.04.02

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Ensure that professional development is aligned with findings from teachers' evaluations.
  - Professional development that is not informed by evaluation results may be of little value to teachers' professional growth and aim of increasing their effectiveness in the classroom. Maryland should ensure that districts utilize teacher evaluation results in determining professional development needs and activities.
- Require that evaluation systems provide teachers with feedback about their performance.

Although Maryland requires teachers to receive copies of their evaluations, this only ensures that teachers will receive their ratings, not necessarily feedback on their performance. Maryland should specify that teachers should receive specific feedback on identified strengths and areas that need improvement.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

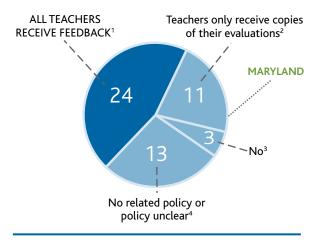
Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.



### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Ten states meet this goal, and although NCTQ has not singled out one state's policies for "best practice" honors, Louisiana is commended for clearly articulating that the feedback provided to a teacher in a post-observation conference must include a discussion of a teacher's strengths and weaknesses.

Figure 94 Do teachers receive feedback on their evaluations?

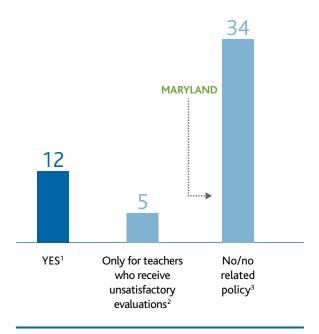


- 1. Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 2. Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma
- 3. Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Utah
- 4. Alabama, District of Columbia, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin



Figure 96

Do states require that teacher evaluations inform professional development?



- Strong Practice: Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Wyoming
- 2. Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Texas
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi<sup>4</sup>, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Viiginia, Washington, West Viiginia, Wisconsin
- 4. Mississippi requires professional development based on evaluation results only for teachers in need of improvement in school identified as at-risk.

## Goal C - Pay Scales

The state should give local districts authority over pay scales.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. While the state may find it appropriate to articulate teachers' starting salaries, it should not require districts to adhere to a state-dictated salary schedule that defines steps and lanes and sets minimum pay at each level.
- 2. The state should discourage districts from tying additional compensation to advanced degrees. The state should eliminate salary schedules that establish higher minimum salaries or other requirements to pay more to teachers with advanced degrees.
- 3. The state should discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective. The state should eliminate salary schedules that require that the highest steps on the pay scale be determined solely be seniority.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 4: Goal C Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland gives local districts the authority for pay scales, eliminating barriers such as state salary schedules and other regulations that control how districts pay teachers. The state allows each county board to appoint all teachers and "set their salaries.".

### **Supporting Research**

Maryland Education Code 4-103

#### RECOMMENDATION

Discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees.

While still leaving districts the flexibility to establish their own pay scale, Maryland should articulate policies that definitively discourage districts from tying compensation to advanced degrees, in light of the extensive research showing that such degrees do not have an impact on teacher effectiveness.

Discourage salary schedules that imply that teachers with the most experience are the most effective.

Similarly, Maryland should articulate policies that discourage districts from determining the highest steps on the pay scale solely by seniority.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland disagreed with this analysis. Maryland asserted that employment and labor issues remain under the autonomous authority of the local school system. However, the Education Reform Act of 2010 allows teachers and principals designated as Highly Effective under a revised evaluation system being piloted to receive locally negotiated financial incentives to work in low-achieving schools. This connects the new evaluation system to compensation. Additionally, in an effort to actively support effective models, the Maryland Department of Education has grants available through Race to the Top to local school systems that allow teachers and principals to receive incentives upon being rated Highly Effective. Finally, as part of local RTTT funding, superintendents, human resources officers and local union leaders are currently convened into the Performance Compensation Workgroup, which is exploring various incentive and compensation models after examining models from five local Maryland districts that already have such programs. MSDE has convened this group and is supporting this work.

### LAST WORD

Financial incentives are addressed in Goals 4-E and 4-F. NCTQ sees no point of disagreement between the analysis and the state's response.

### **TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

Florida and Indiana allow local districts to develop their own salary schedules while preventing districts from focusing on elements not associated with teacher effectiveness. In Florida, local salary schedules must ensure that the most effective teachers receive salary increases greater than the highest annual salary adjustment available. Indiana requires local salary scales to be based on a combination of factors and limits the years of teacher experience and content-area degrees to account for no more than one-third of this calculation.

Figure 98 What role does the state		Sets minimum salay	□ DISTRICTS SET SALARY
play in deciding teacher	E 9	les L	7.73
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	ets'	ts, /	757, 74EL
	Sets minimum salary schedule	જ /	200
Alaska			-
Arizona			
Arkansas California			
Colorado <sup>1</sup>			
Connecticut			-
Delaware			
District of Columbia	_	П	
Florida			ī
Georgia		n	-ī
Hawaii			
Idaho			
Illinois			
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lowa			
Kansas			
Kentucky			
Louisiana			
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MARYLAND			
Massachusetts			
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Mississippi			
Missouri		_	
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Nevada			-
New Hampshire			
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Oregon			
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Rhode Island <sup>2</sup>			
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South Dakota			
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Texas			
Utah			-
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
.1,0111116	16		27
	10	8	41

<sup>1.</sup> Colorado gives districts the option of a salary schedule, a performance pay policy or a combination of both.

 $<sup>{\</sup>bf 2}.$  Rhode Island requires that local district salary schedules are based on years of service, experience and training.

Figure 99	REQUIRES PERFORMANCE  ADVANCED IN CITY IN THE	<b>}</b> /	Requires compensation
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districts from basing	7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7. 7	<del>3</del> / 5	(5) / de
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	/	Leaves pay to district discress.	/ *
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Alaska Arizona		-	
Arkansas			
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut	- i		
Delaware			
District of Columbia			
Florida			
Georgia			
Hawaii			
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Maine			
MARYLAND			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			
Minnesota			
Mississippi			
Missouri			
Montana			
Nebraska Nevada			
New Hampshire New Jersey			
New Mexico			
New York			
North Carolina		$\overline{\Box}$	
North Dakota			
Ohio			
Oklahoma			
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island		1	
South Carolina			
South Dakota			
Tennessee			
Texas		2	
Utah			
Vermont			
Virginia			
Washington			
West Virginia			
Wisconsin			
Wyoming			
	3	32	16

<sup>1.</sup> Rhode Island requires local district salary schedules to include teacher "training".

<sup>2.</sup> Texas has a minimum salary schedule based on years of experience. Compensation for advanced degrees is left to district discretion.

## Goal D - Compensation for Prior Work Experience

The state should encourage districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

1. The state should encourage districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience through mechanisms such as starting these teachers at an advanced step on the pay scale. Further, the state should not have regulatory language that blocks such strategies.

### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal D Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not encourage local districts to provide compensation for related prior subject-area work experience. However, the state does not seem to have regulatory language blocking such strategies.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Encourage local districts to compensate new teachers with relevant prior work experience.

While still leaving districts with the flexibility to determine their own pay scales, Maryland should encourage districts to incorporate mechanisms such as starting these teachers at a higher salary than other new teachers. Such policies would be attractive to career changers with related work

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

experience, such as in the STEM subjects.

Maryland pointed out that with encouragement from the state Department of Education, districts often exercise the freedom to begin new teachers on a higher pay scale for possessing qualities or experiences that the local school system desired. For example, one local system has placed graduates from institutions of higher education that maintain interns in its Professional Development Schools (often considered more like second-year teachers) on a higher step than other newly graduated teachers.

The state added that it is actively encouraging the discussion of building good models for performance-based incentives and compensation through the work of its Performance Compensation Workgroup, supported through Race to the Top.

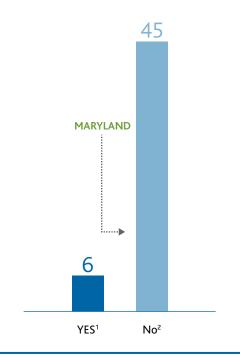
122 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011 MARYLAND



**North Carolina** compensates new teachers with relevant prior-work experience by awarding them one year of experience credit for every year of full-time work after earning a bachelor's degree that is related to their area of licensure and work assignment. One year of credit is awarded for every two years of work experience completed prior to earning a bachelor's degree.

Figure 101

Do states direct districts to compensate teachers for related prior work experience?



- 1. Strong Practice: California, Delaware, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Washington
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

## Goal E - Differential Pay

The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage and high-need areas.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 2. The state should support differential pay for effective teaching in high-need schools.
- 3. The state should not have regulatory language that would block differential pay.

### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal E **Maryland** Analysis



State Nearly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not support differential pay by which a teacher can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. However, the state does offer a program of tuition reimbursement for retraining in the areas of mathematics and science if the teacher agrees to teach in the public school system for at least two years following certification. Also, the state has adopted an Alternative Teaching Program, where candidates enrolled in an alternative teacher preparation program can earn a per diem stipend by agreeing to teach mathematics or science or special education in a state public school for at least three years.

Maryland does support differential pay for those teaching in high-needs schools. The state offers an annual \$2,000 stipend for teachers holding advanced professional certification who work in schools designated as "challenged, reconstitution-eligible, or reconstituted."

Teachers who are National Board Certified are eligible to receive a \$5,000 annual supplement, a match to stipends offered at the local level. However, this differential pay is not tied to high-needs schools or subject-area shortages.

### **Supporting Research**

Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.07.07.01

Teach MD Incentives

http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/certification/certification\_branch/teach\_md/teach\_md\_incentives Maryland General Assembly (MGA) Statutes Education 6-120

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Expand differential pay initiative for teachers in subject shortage areas.

Although the state's tuition reimbursement program is a desirable recruitment and retention tool for teachers early in the career, Maryland should expand its program to include those already part of the teaching pool. A salary differential is an attractive incentive for every teacher.

Consider tying National Board supplements to teaching in high-needs schools.

This differential pay could be an incentive to attract some of the state's most effective teachers to its low-performing schools.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland pointed out that in 1999, the General Assembly enacted the Quality Teacher Incentive Act which contained provisions to provide an impetus to comprehensive, competitive effort to attract and retain quality teachers. Significant changes to the original legislation were enacted in 2009. Stipends (for a dollar-for-dollar match by local school systems) for classroom teachers who earn National Board Teacher Certification (NBTC) will continue; however, the amounts for which teachers will be eligible are now dependent upon the schools in which they teach. Eligibility categorization is based on Maryland's NCLB Differentiated Accountability model. A classroom teacher or other non-administrative school-based employee in a public school identified by the State Board as having comprehensive needs shall receive a stipend from the state in an amount equal to the county grant for national certification, up to a maximum of \$2,000. A classroom teacher or other non-administrative school-based employee in a public school not identified by the State Board as having comprehensive needs shall receive a stipend from the state in an amount equal to the county grant for national certification, up to a maximum of \$1,000. Thus these stipends are now linked to high-needs schools.

Maryland also supports differential pay for those teaching in schools identified by the State Board as having comprehensive needs (developing or priority). The amount of the stipend in FY 2010 is \$1,500 for Advanced Professional Certificate holders.

Figure 103		HIGH NEED	/	SHORTAGE SUBJECT	_
Do states provide		SCHOOLS		AREAS	
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high-need schools	74/	enes.	74/	enes.	
or shortage subject	REV		REN		/ odo
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MARYLAND <sup>2</sup>			- i		Ē
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South Carolina					
South Dakota <sup>3</sup>					
Tennessee					
Texas					
Utah					
Vermont					
Virginia			4		
Washington					
West Virginia					
Wisconsin					
Wyoming					
	21	7	17	11	17

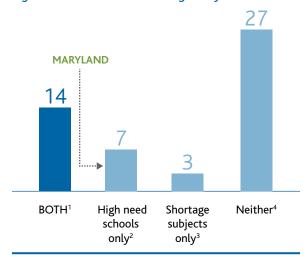
- Connecticut offers mortgage assistance and incentives to retired teachers working in shortage subject areas.
- Maryland offers tuition reimbursement for teacher retraining in specified shortage subject areas and offers a stipend for alternate route candidates teaching in shortage subject areas.
- 3. South Dakota offers signing bonuses and scholarships to fill shortages in high-need schools.
- Shortage subject area differential pay is limited to the Middle School Teacher Corps program.



**Georgia** supports differential pay by which teachers can earn additional compensation by teaching certain subjects. The state is especially commended for its new compensation strategy for math and science teachers, which moves teachers along the salary schedule rather than just providing a bonus or stipend. The state also supports differential pay initiatives to link compensation more closely with district needs and to achieve a more equitable distribution of teachers. Georgia's efforts to provide incentives for National Board Certification teachers to work in high-need schools are also noteworthy.

Figure 104

Do states support differential pay for teaching in high need schools and shortage subjects?



- Strong Practice: Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia
- Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Idaho, Pennsylvania, Utah
- Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia

**MARYLAND** 

## Goal F – Performance Pay

The state should support performance pay but in a manner that recognizes its appropriate uses and limitations.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should support performance pay efforts, rewarding teachers for their effectiveness in the classroom.
- 2. The state should allow districts flexibility to define the criteria for performance pay provided that such criteria connect to evidence of student achievement.
- 3. Any performance pay plan should allow for the participation of all teachers, not just those in tested subjects and grades.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal F Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not support performance pay. The state does not have any policies in place that offer teachers additional compensation based on evidence of effectiveness.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Support a performance pay plan that recognizes teachers for their effectiveness.

Whether it implements the plan at the state or local level, Maryland should ensure that performance pay structures thoughtfully measure classroom performance and connect student achievement to teacher effectiveness. The plan must be developed with careful consideration of available data and subsequent issues of fairness.

■ Consider piloting performance pay in a select number of school districts.

This would provide an opportunity to discover and correct any limitations in available data or methodology before implementing the plan on a wider scale.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that it meets this goal. The state noted that as part of Race to the Top, a Performance Compensation Work Group has been convened to develop guidelines for compensation and incentives for local school systems. These guidelines and structures will encourage pay-for-performance at the local level. The workgroup is comprised of representative stakeholders including local school systems and union members. Opportunities to implement and examine models of compensation based on performance are a part of the pilot evaluation process.

#### **LAST WORD**

While Maryland's efforts are a step in the right direction, these efforts only "encourage" districts to consider offering teachers performance pay.



## **EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE**

An increasing number of states are supporting performance pay initiatives. Florida and **Indiana** are particularly noteworthy for their efforts to build performance into the salary schedule. Rather than award bonuses, teachers' salaries will be based in part on their performance in the classroom.

Figure 106	PERFORMANCE FACTORES	PERORMANCE BOW.	Performance pay Permis	<u> </u>	Does not support Performance Pay	
Do states support	6		Performance pay permissi			
performance pay?	74	ج \ غ		state /	\$ / \$	
perjormance pay.	\$ \$ £	S / 2	至/夏	90 / Sore		
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Colorado			H			
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
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New Mexico						
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	3	4	12	5	27	

<sup>1.</sup> Nebraska's initiative does not go into effect until 2016.

## Goal G – Pension Flexibility

The state should ensure that pension systems are portable, flexible and fair to all teachers.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- Participants in the state's pension system should have the option of a fully portable pension system as their primary pension plan by means of a defined contribution plan or a defined benefit plan that is formatted similar to a cash balance plan.
- 2. Participants in the state's pension system should be vested no later than the third year of employment.
- 3. Defined benefit plans should offer teachers the option of a lump-sum rollover to a personal retirement account upon termination of employment that includes, at minimum, the teacher's contributions and accrued interest at a fair interest rate. In addition, withdrawal options from either defined benefit or defined contribution plans should include funds contributed by the employer.
- 4. Defined benefit plans should allow teachers to purchase time for unlimited previous teaching experience at the time of employment. Teachers should also be allowed to purchase time for all official leaves of absence, such as maternity or paternity leave.

### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal G Maryland Analysis



State Meets a Small Part of Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland only offers a defined benefit pension plan to its teachers as their mandatory pension plan. This plan is not fully portable, does not vest until year five (or year 10 for new teachers), and does not provide any employer contribution for teachers who choose to withdraw their account balances when leaving the system. It also limits flexibility by restricting the ability to purchase years of service.

Teachers in Maryland also participate in Social Security, so they must contribute to the state's defined benefit plan in addition to Social Security. Although retirement savings in addition to Social Security are good and necessary for most individuals, the state's policy results in mandated contributions to two inflexible plans, rather than permitting teachers options for their state-provided savings plans.

Vesting in a defined benefit plan guarantees a teacher's eligibility to receive lifetime monthly benefit payments at retirement age. Nonvested teachers do not have a right to later retirement benefits; they may only withdraw the portion of their funds allowed by the plan. Teachers in Maryland hired prior to July 1, 2011, vest at year five; vesting has been raised for teachers hired after that date to year 10. Teachers who leave the system prior to these points have limited options.

Many teachers will leave the system before they reach 10 (or even five) years of service. Teachers in Maryland who choose to withdraw their contributions upon leaving only receive their own contributions plus interest. This means that those who withdraw their funds accrue no benefits beyond what they might have earned had they simply put their contributions in basic savings accounts. Further, teachers who remain in the field of education but enter another pension plan (such as in another state) will find it difficult to purchase the time equivalent to their prior employment in the new system because they are not entitled to any employer contribution.

Maryland limits teachers' flexibility to purchase years of service. The ability to purchase time is important because defined benefit plans' retirement eligibility, and benefit payments are often tied to the number of years a teacher has worked. Maryland's plan allows teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience, up to 10 years. While better than not allowing any purchase at all, this provision disadvantages teachers who move to Maryland with more teaching experience. However, the state's plan does allow teachers to purchase up to 24 months of time per approved leave of absence, which is an advantage to teachers who need to take time for maternity or paternity leave or for other personal reasons.

### Supporting Research

Reformed, Contributory, and Non-Contributory Pension Systems for Employees and Teachers of the State of Maryland, Benefits Handbook

http://www.sra.state.md.us/Participants/Members/Downloads/Handbooks/BenefitHandbook-Emp-Pen.pdf

#### RECOMMENDATION

## Offer teachers a pension plan that is fully portable, flexible and fair.

Maryland should offer teachers for their mandatory pension plan the option of either a defined contribution plan or a fully portable defined benefit plan, such as a cash balance plan. A well-structured defined benefit plan could be a suitable option among multiple plans. However, as the sole option, defined benefit plans severely disadvantage mobile teachers and those who enter the profession later in life. Because teachers in Maryland participate in Social Security, they are required to contribute to two defined benefit-style plans.

## ■ Increase the portability of its defined benefit plan.

If Maryland maintains its defined benefit plan, it should allow teachers that leave the system to withdraw employer contributions. The state should also allow teachers to purchase their full amount of previous teaching experience and decrease the vesting requirement to year three. A lack of portability is a disincentive to an increasingly mobile teaching force.

## Offer a fully portable supplemental retirement savings plan.

If Maryland maintains its defined benefit plan, the state should at least offer teachers the option of a fully portable supplemental defined contribution savings plan, with employers matching a percentage of teachers' contributions.

### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

**Accrued Liability:** The value of a pension plan's promised benefits calculated by an actuary (actuarial valuation), taking into account a set of investment and benefit assumptions to a certain date.

**Actuarial Valuation:** In a pension plan, this is the total amount needed to meet promised benefits. A set of mathematical procedures is used to calculate the value of benefits to be paid, the funds available and the annual contribution required.

**Amortization Period:** The gradual elimination of a liability, such as a mortgage, in regular payments over a specified period of time.

**Benefit Formula**: Formula used to calculate the amount teachers will receive each month after retirement. The most common formula used is (years of service x final average salary x benefit multiplier). This amount is divided by 12 to calculate monthly benefits.

**Benefit Multiplier:** Multiplier used in the benefit formula. It, along with years of service, determines the total percentage of final average salary that a teacher will receive in retirement benefits. In some plans, the multiplier is not constant, but changes depending upon retirement age and/or years of service.

**Defined Benefit Plan:** Pension plan that promises to pay a specified amount to each person who retires after a set number of years of service. Employees contribute to them in some cases; in others, all contributions are made by the employer.

**Defined Contribution Plan:** Pension plan in which the level of contributions is fixed at a certain level, while benefits vary depending on the return from investments. Employees make contributions into a tax-deferred account, and employers may or may not make contributions. Defined contribution pension plans, unlike defined benefit pension plans, give the employee options of where to invest the account, usually among stock, bond and money market accounts.

**Lump-sum Withdrawal:** Large payment of money received at one time instead of in periodic payments. Teachers leaving a pension plan may receive a lump-sum distribution of the value of their pension.

**Normal Cost:** The amount necessary to fund retirement benefits for one plan year for an individual or a whole pension plan.

**Pension Wealth:** The net present value of a teacher's expected lifetime retirement benefits.

**Purchasing Time:** A teacher may make additional contributions to a pension system to increase service credit. Time may be purchased for a number of reasons, such as professional development leave, previous out-of-state teaching experience, medical leaves of absence or military service.

**Service Credit/Years of Service:** Accumulated period of time in years or partial years for which a teacher earned compensation subject to contributions.

**Supplemental Retirement Plan:** An optional plan to which teachers may voluntarily make tax-deferred contributions in addition to their mandatory pension plans. Employees are usually able to choose their rate of contribution up to a maximum set by the IRS; some employers also make contributions. These plans are generally in the form of 457 or 403(b) programs.

**Vesting:** Right an employee gradually acquires by length of service to receive employer-contributed benefits, such as payments from a pension fund.

Sources: Barron's Dictionary of Finance and Investment Terms, Seventh Edition; California State Teachers' Retirement System http://www.calstrs.com/Members/Defined%20Benefit%20Program/glossary.aspx; Economic Research Institute, http://www.eridlc.com/resources/index.cfm?fuseaction=resource.glossary

Figure 109		Defined benefit plan with	fined /	CHOICE OF DEFINED REAL	ő > / >
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Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California <sup>2</sup>					
Colorado					
Connecticut					
Delaware					
District of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii					
Idaho					
Illinois					
Indiana <sup>3</sup>					
lowa					
Kansas					
Kentucky					
Louisiana					
Maine					
MARYLAND					
Massachusetts					
Michigan					
Minnesota					
Mississippi					
Missouri					
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire					
New Jersey					
New Mexico					
New York					
North Carolina					
North Dakota					
Ohio <sup>4</sup>					
Oklahoma					
Oregon <sup>5</sup>					
Pennsylvania					
Rhode Island					
South Carolina <sup>6</sup>					
South Dakota					
Tennessee					
Texas Utah <sup>7</sup>					
Vermont					
Virginia Washington <sup>8</sup>					
Washington <sup>8</sup>					
West Virginia Wisconsin	_				
Wyoming					
wyoming	_	_			
	25	17	4	4	1



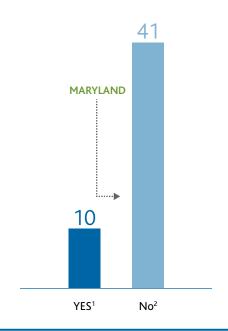
### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alaska provides a fair and flexible defined contribution pension plan for all teachers. This plan is also highly portable, as teachers are entitled to 100 percent of employer contributions after five years of service. South Dakota's defined benefit plan has some creative provisions, which makes it more like a defined contribution plan. Most notably, teachers are able to withdraw 85 percent of their employer contributions after three years of service. In addition, Florida, Ohio, South Carolina and Utah are noteworthy for offering teachers a choice between a defined benefit or hybrid plan and a defined contribution plan.

- 1. A hybrid plan has components of both a defined benefit plan and a defined contribution plan.
- 2. California offers a small cash balance component but ended most of the funding to this portion as of January 1, 2011.
- 3. Indiana also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 4. Ohio also offers the option of a hybrid plan and offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 5. Oregon also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 6. South Carolina also offers a supplemental defined contribution plan.
- 7. Utah offers a choice between a defined contribution or a hybrid plan.
- 8. Washington offers a choice between a defined benefit or a hybrid plan.

Figure 110

Do states offer teachers an option other than a nonportable defined benefit plan?



- 1. Strong Practice: Alaska, Florida, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah, Washington
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado<sup>3</sup>, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii<sup>3</sup>, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Although not fully portable, the state's defined benefit plan has some notable portability provisions.

Figure 111

- 1. For teachers who join the system on or after January 1, 2012.
- 2. Florida's defined benefit plan does not vest until year eight; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- 3. For teachers who join the system on or after July 1, 2012.
- 4. Ohio's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest in the state's defined contribution plan after one year.
- Oregon offers a hybrid plan in which teachers vest immediately in the defined contribution component and vest in the defined benefit component after five years.
- 6. South Carolina's defined benefit plan does not vest until year five; teachers vest immediately in the state's defined contribution plan.
- 7. Based on Washington's Plan 2. The state also offers a hybrid plan in which teachers vest immediately in the defined contribution component and vest in the defined benefit component after 10 years.

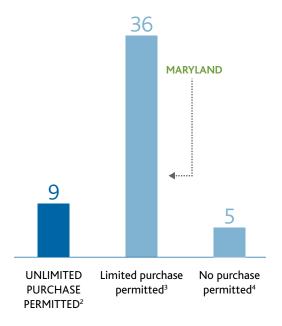
	3 YEARS OR LESS	4 to 5 years	6 to 9 years	10 years
Alabama				
Alaska				
Arizona				
Arkansas				
California				
Colorado				
Connecticut				
Delaware <sup>1</sup>				
District of Columbia				
Florida <sup>2</sup>				
Georgia Hawaii³				
Hawaii³ Idaho				
Illinois				
Illinois Indiana				
Indiana Iowa³				
Kansas			-	
Kentucky				
Louisiana				
Maine				
MARYLAND	- i			
Massachusetts				
Michigan				
Minnesota		П		
Mississippi				
Missouri				
Montana				
Nebraska				
Nevada				
New Hampshire				
New Jersey				
New Mexico				
New York				
North Carolina				
North Dakota				
Ohio⁴				
Oklahoma				
Oregon <sup>5</sup>				
Pennsylvania				
Rhode Island				
South Carolina <sup>6</sup>				
South Dakota				
Tennessee				
Texas				
Utah				
Vermont				
Virginia Washington <sup>7</sup>				
Washington <sup>7</sup>				
West Virginia Wisconsin				
Wyoming				

Figure 112		Only their own	tion /	Their own contribution	THER OWN. CONTRIBITION	•
What funds do states p	permit		Their own contribution Plus interest	to,		
teachers to withdraw f			ont,	tribu.		
their defined benefit p	lans 👸 .	/ §		6		5
if they leave after	ition		Wn C	own the		ERE.
	lans than their	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	Their own con	r of tribit.		
five years? <sup>1</sup>	ος γ <sup>6</sup>	6	\ \frac{F}{12} \ \ \frac{1}{12} \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	69,7	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	
Alabama						
Alaska <sup>2</sup>	$\overline{}$	$\overline{\Box}$				
Arizona						
Arkansas						
California <sup>3</sup>						
Colorado						
Connecticut						
Delaware						
District of Columbia						
Florida						
Georgia						
Hawaii						
Idaho						
Illinois						
Indiana						
lowa <sup>4</sup>						
Kansas						
Kentucky						
Louisiana						
Maine						
MARYLAND						
Massachusetts						
Michigan⁵						
Minnesota						
Mississippi						
Missouri						
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada <sup>6</sup>						
New Hampshire						
New Jersey						
New Mexico						
New York						
North Carolina						
North Dakota						
Ohio <sup>7</sup>						
Oklahoma						
Oregon <sup>8</sup>						
Pennsylvania						
Rhode Island						
South Carolina <sup>9</sup>						
South Dakota						
Tennessee						
Texas						
Utah <sup>10</sup>						
Vermont						
Virginia						
Washington <sup>11</sup>						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin						
Wyoming						
	4	5	34	6	1	

- States' withdrawal policies may vary depending on a teacher's years of service. Year five is used as a common point of comparision.
- As of July 1, 2006, Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan to new members, which allows teachers leaving the system after five years to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution.
- California has a defined benefit plan with a small cash balance component, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions and any employer contributions plus earnings from their cash balance component, regardless of their actions regarding their defined benefit account.
- 4. Once vested, lowa teachers may withdraw an employer match equal to one-thirtieth of their years of service. Effective July 1, 2012 teachers vest at seven years of service, so a teacher leaving at year five would not be entitled to any employer contribution.
- 5. Michigan only offers a hybrid plan. Exiting teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued earnings immediately and the employer contributions to the defined contribution component once vested at year four. Michigan teachers may withdraw their own contributions and accrued interest from the defined benefit component but may not withdraw the employer contribution.
- 6. Most teachers in Nevada fund the system by salary reductions or forgoing pay raises and thus do not have direct contributions to withdraw. The small mintority that are in a contributory system may withdraw their contributions plus interest.
- 7. Ohio has two other pension plans. Ohio's defined contribution plan allows teachers with at least one year of service who are leaving the system to withdraw 100 percent of the employer contribution. Exiting teachers with at least five years of experience in Ohio's combination plan may withdraw their employee-funded defined contribution component and the present value of the benefits offered in the defined benefit component.
- Oregon only has a hybrid retirement plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.
- South Carolina also has a defined contribution plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw 100 percent of their contributions and employer contributions, plus earnings.
- 10. Utah offers a hybrid pension plan, which only has employee contributions when the costs exceed the guaranteed employer contribution. When costs are less than the employer contribution, the excess is contributed to the employee account and refundable after vesting.
- 11. Washington also has a hybrid plan, which allows exiting teachers to withdraw their contributions plus earnings from their defined contribution component; they still receive the employer-funded defined benefit payments at retirement age.

Figure 113

Do states permit teachers to purchase time for previous teaching experience?<sup>1</sup>



- Purchasing time does not apply to defined contribution plans. In states that offer multiple plans or a hybrid plan, the graph refers to the state's defined benefit plan or the defined benefit component of its hybrid plan. Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan and is not included.
- Strong Practice: California, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Utah
- Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 4. Hawaii, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Oregon

Figure 114

Do states permit teachers to purchase time for leaves of absence?<sup>1</sup>



- Purchasing time does not apply to defined contribution plans. In states that offer multiple plans or a hybrid plan, the graph refers to the state's defined benefit plan or the defined benefit component of its hybrid plan. Alaska only offers a defined contribution plan and is not included.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, California, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota
- 3. Arizona, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
- Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin

## Goal H – Pension Sustainability

The state should ensure that excessive resources are not committed to funding teachers' pension systems.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should ensure that its pension system is financially sustainable, without excessive unfunded liabilities or an inappropriately long amortization period.
- Mandatory employer and employee contribution rates should not be unreasonably high, as they reduce teachers' paychecks and commit district resources that could otherwise be spent on salaries or incentives.

## **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



## Area 4: Goal H Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

As of June 30, 2010, the most recent date for which an actuarial valuation is available, Maryland's pension system for teachers is 65.4 percent funded and its amortization period varies—unfunded liabilities accrued prior to 2001 are amortized to the year 2020, and liabilities accrued after are amortized over a 25-year period. However, the state is not meeting the contribution requirements to meet these amortization points, and this means that if the plan earns its assumed rate of return and maintains current contribution rates, it would take the state over 25 years to pay off its unfunded liabilities. The state's funding ratio does not meet conventional standards, its amortization period is not being met and the state's system is not financially sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

In addition, Maryland commits excessive resources toward its teachers' retirement system, especially in light of the fact that local districts and teachers must also contribute 6.2 percent to Social Security. The current employer contribution rate of 15.45 percent, which is paid by the state rather than local districts, is too high. The rate is established annually by the board of trustees based on an annual actuarial valuation. In order to meet the state's various amortization periods, the actuarial recommendation for Maryland's employer contribution level was 19.9 percent. However, that amount exceeded the state corridor funding statute, which limits the amount by which contribution rates can increase or decrease year to year, so the lower rate was set. The mandatory employee contribution rate varies based on teachers' dates of hire — teachers hired prior to July 1, 2011, contribute a rate of 5 percent and those hired on or after contribute 7 percent. Both are reasonable.

#### **Supporting Research**

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Maryland State Retirement and Pension System, For the Year Ended June 30, 2010

http://www.sra.state.md.us/Agency/Downloads/CAFR/CAFR-2010.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

### Ensure that the pension system is financially sustainable.

The state would be better off if its system was over 95 percent funded and had an amortization period of less than 30 years to allow more protection during financial downturns. However, Maryland should consider ways to improve its funding level without raising the contributions of the state and teachers. In fact, the state should work to decrease employer contributions. Committing excessive resources to pension benefits can negatively affect teacher recruitment and retention. Improving funding levels necessitates, in part, systemic changes in the state's pension system. Goals 4-G and 4-I provide suggestions for pension system structures that are both sustainable and fair.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis. The state maintains that the State Retirement and Pension System's amortization period does meet conventional standards, and the system is sustainable according to actuarial benchmarks.

140 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011
MARYLAND

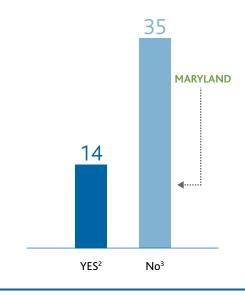
Figure 116		, 2
Do state pension	EVZ	EAR ERIC
systems meet standard	J. J	08/0
benchmarks for	.8	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
financial health?	<u> </u>	
jmanetat meaters.	FA7U FUND	\$ 0 0
Alabama		
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Oklahoma		
Oregon		
Pennsylvania		
Rhode Island		
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South Dakota		
Tennessee		
Texas		
Utah³		
Vermont		
Virginia		
Washington		
West Virginia		
Wisconsin		
Wyoming		Ш
	16	26



### TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

South Dakota, Tennessee and Wisconsin provide financially sustainable pension systems without committing excessive resources. The systems in these states are fully funded without requiring excessive contributions from teachers or school districts.

Figure 117 Are state pension systems financially sustainable?1



- 1. Cannot be determined for Michigan or Utah, which recently opened new systems.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana<sup>4</sup>, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin
- 3. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. Based on Indiana's current plan only.

Figure 116

- 1. The amortization period is set to be under 30 years; however, the amortization period is not determined because the state is not meeting its annual required contribution.
- 2. Michigan opened a new system in July 2010.
- 3. Utah opened a new system in July 2011.

Figure 118

Real Rate of Return

The pension system funding levels reported here are based on each state's individual actuarial valuation, which use a series of varying assumptions. One of these assumptions concerns rate of return, which greatly affects a system's funding level. If investment returns fall short of assumptions, the fund will have a deficit; if returns are greater than expected, the fund will have a surplus. Higher assumed rates involve more risk, while rates closer to inflation (typically in the 3-5 percent range) are safer.

Most state pension funds assume a rate between 7.5 percent and 8.25 percent. A state using a 7.5 percent rate will report a lower funding level than if it had used 8.25 percent, even though its liabilities remain the same. Many states report that they do meet or exceed an eight percent rate of return over the life of the plan.

However, some economists argue that states' assumed rates of return are too high, and should instead be closer to four percent. They caution that the risk associated with states' higher rates is borne by taxpayers, with the result that tax rates rise to fund pension deficits. A rate closer to four percent would make the vast majority of the nation's pension systems less than 50 percent funded. In light of the current market situation, the debate over the rate of return is particularly timely. With no current consensus by experts or policymakers, NCTQ used states' self-reported numbers rather than recalculate all funding levels based on a standard rate of return. Considering how many states' systems NCTQ found in questionable financial health without using the lower rates some economists prefer, it is clear this is an issue that demands policymakers' attention.

Figure 119

Figure 119

How well funded are state pension systems?

	Funding Level
Alaska <sup>1</sup>	N/A
District of Columbia	118.3%
Washington	116%
New York	103.2%
Wisconsin	99.8%
South Dakota	96.3%
Delaware	96%
North Carolina	95.9%
Indiana <sup>2</sup>	94.7%
Tennessee	90.6%
Wyoming	87.5%
Georgia	87.2%
Florida	86.6%
Utah	85.7%
Oregon	83.2%
Texas	82.9%
Nebraska	82.4%
Iowa	80.8%
Virginia	80.2%
Arizona	79%
Idaho	78.9%
Michigan	78.9%
Minnesota	78.5%
California	78%
Missouri	77.7%
Pennsylvania	75.1%
Alabama	74.7%
Arkansas	73.8%
Nevada	71.2%
North Dakota	69.8%
South Carolina	67.8%
Vermont	66.5%
Maine	65.9%
New Mexico	65.7%
MARYLAND	65.4%
Montana	65.4%
Colorado	64.8%
	64.2%
Mississippi Massachusetts	63%
Connecticut	61.4%
Hawaii	61.4%
Kentucky	61%
Ohio	59.1%
New Hampshire	58.5%
New Jersey	57.6%
Oklahoma	56.7%
Kansas	56%
Louisiana	54.4%
Illinois	48.4%
Rhode Island	48.4%
West Virginia	46.5%

<sup>1.</sup> Alaska has only a defined contribution pension system.

Indiana's current plan is 94.7 percent funded. However, when the current plan is combined with its closed plan, the funding level drops to 44.3 percent.

Figure 120 What is a reasonable rate for pension contributions?

- 4-7 percent each for teachers and districts in states participating in Social Security
- 10-13 percent each for teachers and districts in states not participating in Social Security

Analysts generally agree that workers in their 20's with no previous retirement savings should save, in addition to Social Security contributions, about 10-15 percent of their gross income in order to be able to live during retirement on 80 percent of the salary they were earning when they retired. While the recommended savings rate varies with age and existing retirement savings, NCTQ has used this 10-15 percent benchmark as a reasonable rate for its analyses. To achieve a total savings of 10-15 percent, teacher and employer contributions should each be in the range of 4-7 percent. In states where teachers do not participate in Social Security, the total recommended retirement savings (teacher plus employer contributions) is about 12 percent higher to compensate for the fact that these teachers will not have Social Security income when they retire. In order to achieve the appropriate level of total savings, teacher and employer contributions in these states should each be in the range of 10-13 percent.

#### Sources:

http://www.schwab.com/public/schwab/resource\_center/expert insight/retirement strategies/planning/ how\_much\_should\_you\_save\_for\_retirement\_play\_ the\_percentages.html https://personal.vanguard.com/us/insights/retirement/ saving/set-retirement-goals

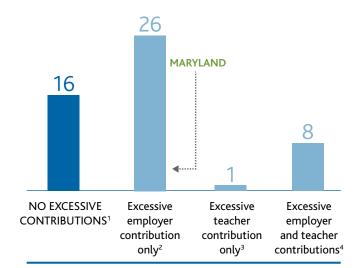
Figure 121

- 1. The employer contribution rate includes the contributions of both school districts and state governments, where appropriate.
- 2. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years. Some school districts in Georgia do not contribute to Social Security.
- 3. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- 4. Michigan opened a new system in July 2010 and employer contributions are not yet reported.
- 5. New Jersey reports its contributions as a flat dollar amount, and a percentage could not be calculated.
- 6. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years. Most, but not all, school districts in Rhode Island contribute to Social Security.
- 7. The contribution rate is set to decrease in 2012.



Figure 122

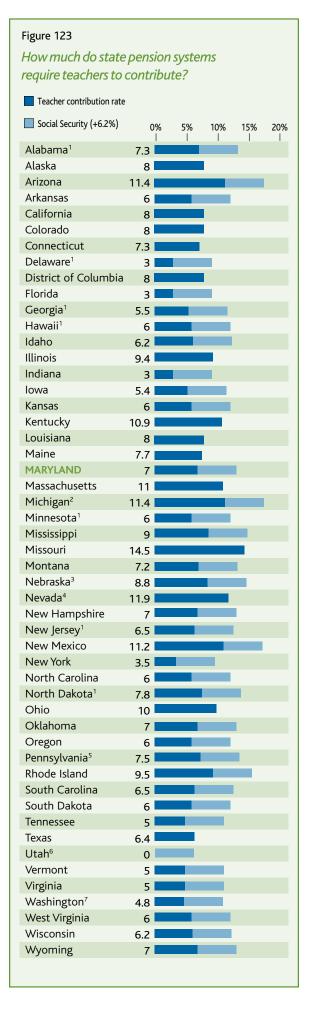
Do states require excessive contributions to their pension systems?



- Strong Practice: Alaska, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey<sup>5</sup>, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia
- 3. Michigan<sup>6</sup>
- 4. Arizona, Hawaii, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island
- 5. While not excessive, the employer and state contribution are quite low. The most recent total employer contribution was only 5.4 percent of the actuarially-determined annual required contribution.
- 6. Employer contribution rates to Michigan's new system have not yet been reported.

Figure 123

- 1. The contribution rate is set to increase in future years.
- Teachers contribute 9.4 percent to the defined benefit component and are automatically enrolled to contribute 2 percent to the defined contribution component; teachers may change the latter rate.
- 3. The contribution rate is set to increase in 2012 and decrease in 2014.
- 4. Teachers share in the employer contribution through salary reductions or foregoing equivalent pay raises.
- 5. For teachers hired after July 1, 2011, the contribution ranges from 7.5-12.3 based on a variety of factors.
- Teachers in the hybrid plan must make a mandatory contribution if the employer contribution does not cover system costs.
- 7. For the defined benefit plan; the rate varies for the defined contribution plan from a minimum of 5 percent.



# **Area 4: Delivering Well-Prepared Teachers**

# Goal I – Pension Neutrality

The state should ensure that pension systems are neutral, uniformly increasing pension wealth with each additional year of work.

#### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The formula that determines pension benefits should be neutral to the number of years worked. It should not have a multiplier that increases with years of service or longevity bonuses.
- 2. The formula for determining benefits should preserve incentives for teachers to continue working until conventional retirement ages. Eligibility for retirement benefits should be based on age and not years of service.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 4: Goal I Maryland Analysis



State Partly Meets Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland's pension system is based on a benefit formula that is not neutral, meaning that each year of work does not accrue pension wealth in a uniform way until teachers reach conventional retirement age, such as that associated with Social Security.

Teachers' retirement wealth is determined by their monthly payments and the length of time they expect to receive those payments. Monthly payments are usually calculated as final average salary multiplied by years of service multiplied by a set multiplier (such as 1.5). Higher salary, more years of service or a greater multiplier increases monthly payments and results in greater pension wealth. Earlier retirement eligibility with unreduced benefits also increases pension wealth, because more payments will be received.

To qualify as neutral, a pension formula must utilize a constant benefit multiplier and an eligibility time-table based solely on age, rather than years of service. Basing eligibility for retirement on years of service creates unnecessary and often unfair peaks in pension wealth, while allowing unreduced retirement at a young age creates incentives to retire early. Plans that change their multipliers for various years of service do not value each year of teaching equally. Therefore, plans with a constant multiplier and that base retirement on an age in line with Social Security are likely to create the most uniform accrual of wealth.

Maryland's pension plan is commended for utilizing a constant benefit multiplier of 1.8 percent for teachers hired prior to July 1, 2011, and a constant benefit multiplier of 1.5 percent for those hired after that date; however, teachers may retire before standard retirement age based on years of service without a reduction in benefits. Teachers hired prior to July 1, 2011, with 30 years of service may retire with unreduced benefits at any age, while other vested teachers with less than 30 years of service may not retire with unreduced benefits until age 62. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach 30 years of service by age 52, entitling them to 10 additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 62. Teachers hired on or after July 1, 2011, may retire when they meet the "Rule of 90," meaning their age and years of service combined equal 90, or when they are 65. Therefore, teachers who begin their careers at age 22 can reach the Rule of 90 at age 56 with 34 years of service, entitling them to 11 additional years of unreduced retirement benefits beyond what other teachers would receive who may not retire until age 65.

Not only are teachers being paid benefits by the state well before Social Security's retirement age, but these provisions, along with the state's early retirement with reduced benefits based on years of service, may also encourage effective teachers to retire early. They also fail to treat equally those teachers who enter the system at a later age and give the same amount of service.

### **Supporting Research**

Reformed, Contributory, and Non-Contributory Pension Systems for Employees and Teachers of the State of Maryland, Benefits Handbook

http://www.sra.state.md.us/Participants/Members/Downloads/Handbooks/BenefitHandbook-Emp-Pen.pdf

### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ End retirement eligibility based on years of service.

Maryland should change its practice of allowing teachers with 30 years of service to retire at any age with full benefits. If retirement at an earlier age is offered to some teachers, benefits should be reduced accordingly to compensate for the longer duration they will be awarded.

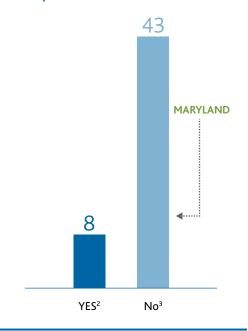
Align eligibility for retirement with unreduced benefits with Social Security retirement age. Maryland allows all teachers to retire before conventional retirement age, some as young as 52. As life expectancies continue to increase, teachers may draw out of the system for many more years than they contributed. This is not compatible with a financially sustainable system (see Goal 4-H).

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland was helpful in providing NCTQ with facts that enhanced this analysis.

Figure 125

Do states base retirement eligibility on age, which is fair to all teachers?<sup>1</sup>



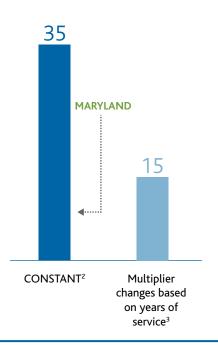
- 1. This only refers to determining retirement eligibility, not retirement benefits.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alaska, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey
- 3. Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Figure 126

- 1. All calculations are based on a teacher who starts teaching at age 22, earns a starting salary of \$35,000 that increases 3 percent per year, and retires at the age s/he is first eligible for unreduced benefits. The calculations use states' current benefit formulas and do not include cost of living increases. The final average salary was calculated as the average of the highest three years of salary, even though a few states may vary from that standard. Age 65 was used as a point of comparision because it is the miminum eligibility for unreduced Social Security benefits.
- 2. Does not apply to Alaska's defined contribution plan.
- 3. Minnesota provides unreduced retirement benefits at the age of full Social Security benefits or age 66, whichever comes first.
- California's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 40 years of experience at age 62 would reach Califorina's maximum allowable multiplier of 2.4 percent.
- 5. Age 60 is the earlier teachers hired on or after July 1, 2012 may retire. Teachers hired prior to this point may retire at age 55.
- Massachusetts's formula has many options for retirement. A teacher with 35 years
  of experience at age 57 would reach Massachusetts's maximum allowable benefit
  of 80 percent.

Figure 126  How much do states  pay for each teacher  that retires with	Total amount in benefits paid etirement until age 65	Earliest etitiement as teachiner who started receive timed age 22 mar teneduced bear
unreduced benefits at an early age? <sup>1</sup>	Total amount in Per teacher from i retirement until ag	Farliess a teach teaching eceive un
Alaska <sup>2</sup>	/	
Illinois	\$0	67
Maine	\$0	65
Minnesota <sup>3</sup>	\$0	66
New Hampshire	\$0	65
New Jersey	\$0	65
Washington	\$0	65
Tennessee	\$238,654	52
Michigan	\$289,187	60
California <sup>4</sup>	\$310,028	62
Indiana	\$317,728	55
Hawaii <sup>5</sup>	\$337,385	60
Kansas	\$337,385	60
Oregon	\$361,536	58
North Dakota	\$385,583	60
Oklahoma	\$385,583	60
MARYLAND	\$413,808	56
Wisconsin	\$416,007	57
Rhode Island New York	\$430,013	59
Texas	\$440,819 \$443,421	57
South Dakota	\$447,707	60 55
Virginia	\$468,982	56
Louisiana	\$481,979	60
Florida	\$485,257	55
Vermont	\$486,832	56
Montana	\$518,228	47
Connecticut	\$520,009	57
Utah	\$520,009	57
lowa	\$551,428	55
Idaho	\$551,743	56
North Carolina	\$568,555	52
South Carolina	\$577,142	50
Nebraska	\$577,687	55
West Virginia	\$577,687	55
Delaware	\$577,927	52
District of Columbia	\$585,737	52
Massachusetts <sup>6</sup>	\$594,296	57
Georgia	\$624,786	52
Mississippi	\$624,786	52
Alabama	\$625,747	47
Colorado	\$650,011	57
Pennsylvania	\$650,011	57
Wyoming	\$655,506	54
Arizona	\$664,340	55
Arkansas	\$681,789	50
Ohio	\$687,265	52
New Mexico Nevada	\$734,124	52
Missouri	\$780,983	52 51
Kentucky	\$789,343 \$791,679	51 49
Refituery	2121,019	43

Figure 127
What kind of multiplier do states use to calculate retirement benefits?<sup>1</sup>



- 1. Alaska has a defined contribution plan, which does not have a benefit multiplier.
- 2. Strong Practice: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin
- 3. Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wyoming



## TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Alaska offers a defined contribution pension plan that is neutral, with pension wealth accumulating in an equal way for all teachers for each year of work. In addition, Illinois, Minnesota and New Jersey offer a defined benefit plan with a formula multiplier that does not change relative to years of service and does not allow unreduced benefits for retirees below age 65. Illinois and New Jersey are further commended for ending their previous practices of allowing teachers to retire well before Social Security age without a reduction in benefits.

#### Figure 128

# Double-Dipping: Cure the Disease, Not the Symptom

Benefit recipients in teacher pension plans have recently been under scrutiny for "double-dipping," when individuals receive a pension and salary at the same time. This can occur when teachers reach retirement eligibility, yet wish to keep working without losing pension wealth. Teachers can retire, start receiving their monthly benefits and then return to teaching. The restrictions on a teacher's ability to return to work vary from state to state. Policies can include waiting periods, limitations on earnings or restrictions to working in difficult-to-fill positions.

Some descriptions portray teachers working while collecting their pensions as greedy or somehow taking advantage, when in fact they are just following the system that is in place. When a teacher reaches retirement eligibility in a defined benefit system, her pension wealth peaks and, after that, wealth accrual slows or even decreases because every year a teacher delays retirement, she loses a year of pension benefits. For example, if a teacher could retire with 60 percent of her salary at age 56, then every year she teaches past that point she is, in effect, working for only 40 percent of her pay because she is not receiving her pension. This puts relatively young teachers and the districts who wish to retain them in a difficult position. Districts want to keep effective teachers in schools, but the financial reality for teachers is hard to pass up.

Retirees returning to work are also an issue for defined benefit pension system funding because contributions are not being made to the system that would be made if those positions were held by non-retirees. This adds to the funding imbalances that many states' defined benefit systems face.

Some states have created Deferred Retirement Option Plans (DROP) in which retirees can have their benefits placed in a savings account while they return to work and, once they retire again, they can receive the lump sum in their DROP accounts and resume their monthly benefits.

Returning to work would not be a large policy issue if systems did not allow teachers to retire with unreduced benefits at such relatively young ages and if pension wealth accrual were more neutral. An effective teacher should be able to keep teaching and at the same time know that her pension wealth will not erode. More systemic fixes—like the ones outlined in the *Yearbook*—are needed. Calls to prohibit double-dipping are not addressing the real problem.

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal A – Licensure Loopholes

The state should close loopholes that allow teachers who have not met licensure requirements to continue teaching.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- Under no circumstances should a state award a standard license to a teacher who has not passed all required subject-matter licensing tests.
- 2. If a state finds it necessary to confer conditional or provisional licenses under limited and exceptional circumstances to teachers who have not passed the required tests, the state should ensure that requirements are met within one year.

### **Background**

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 5: Goal A Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland allows teachers who have not met the state's licensure requirements to teach under a conditional certificate. A local school system may request a conditional certificate if it is unable to fill the position with a qualified person who holds a professional certificate. The conditional certificate is valid for two years.

#### Supporting Research

Maryland State Department of Education: Certification Types

http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/divisions/certification/certification\_branch/certification\_inf/types/overview COMAR 13A.12.01.08

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/13a/13a.12.01.08.htm

#### RECOMMENDATION

 Ensure that all teachers pass required subject-matter licensing tests before they enter the classroom.

All students are entitled to teachers who know the subject matter they are teaching. Permitting individuals who have not yet passed state licensing tests to teach neglects the needs of students, instead extending personal consideration to adults who may not be able to meet minimal state standards. Maryland should ensure that all teachers pass licensing tests—an important minimum benchmark for entering the profession—before entering the classroom.

Limit exceptions to one year.

There might be limited and exceptional circumstances under which conditional or emergency licenses need to be granted. In these instances, it is reasonable for a state to give teachers up to one year to pass required licensing tests. Maryland's current policy puts students at risk by allowing teachers to teach on conditional certificates for two years without passing required licensing tests.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that it requires licensing tests for certification. Maryland added that as an "import state," many teachers moving to Maryland do not fully meet Maryland licensure requirements. Thus, a conditional certificate is sometimes given while the teacher is fulfilling the requirements. The state noted that "the teacher may be lacking test scores, but it is also possible that they are lacking some pedagogical coursework. The state believes that two years is an appropriate amount of time to complete certification requirements while teaching on a conditional certificate, since it is important to avoid overburdening teachers in the initial year of an assignment."

Maryland added that the state percentage of teachers using the conditional certification (3/2011) is 1.12% (out of 60,207 teachers). This number has dropped every year since the conditional regulation was adopted; it was 3.9% in 2009. The conditional chart showing conditional teachers by local school system is found in the Maryland Teacher Staffing Report.

#### LAST WORD

Maryland should require that all teachers, even those previously licensed in other states, meet all of its testing requirements before entering the classroom. Some states set extremely low standards for passing their licensure tests. Maryland takes considerable risk by granting licenses to all teachers without ensuring that they meet the state's standards. If a conditional license is necessary to put a teacher in the classroom, then the state is urged to allow only one additional year to meet testing requirements. While the state may feel that additional time is warranted to fulfill coursework requirements without overburdening the new teacher, two years is too long to allow an individual to remain in the classroom without proving that he or she has the requisite subject-matter knowledge.

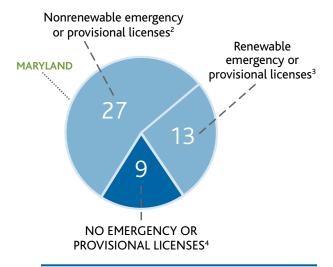
152 : NCTQ STATE TEACHER POLICY YEARBOOK 2011



### EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, and New Jersey require all new teachers to pass all required subject-matter tests as a condition of initial licensure.

Figure 130 Do states still award emergency licenses?1



- 1. Not applicable to Montana and Nebraska, which do not require subject matter testing.
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota<sup>5</sup>, Ohio<sup>5</sup>, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 3. Arizona, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin
- 4. Strong Practice: Colorado, Illinois, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia
- 5. License is renewable, but only if licensure tests are passed.

Figure 131

- 1. Iowa only requires subject-matter testing for elementary teachers.
- 2. Montana does not require subject-matter testing.
- 3. Nebraska does not require subject-matter testing.
- 4. There is a potential loophole in Utah, as alternate route teachers appear able to delay passage of subject-matter tests.
- 5. Wyoming only requires subject-matter testing for elementary and social studies teachers.

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Virginia				
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West Virginia				
Wisconsin				
Wyoming <sup>5</sup>				

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal B – Unsatisfactory Evaluations

The state should articulate consequences for teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations, including specifying that teachers with multiple unsatisfactory evaluations should be eligible for dismissal.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- The state should require that all teachers who receive a single unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on an improvement plan, whether or not they have tenure.
- The state should require that all teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years be formally eligible for dismissal, whether or not they have tenure.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 5: Goal B **Maryland** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



**Progress Since 2009** 

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not have a policy regarding teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations.

#### **Supporting Research**

Maryland does not meet this goal

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

# Require that all teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations be placed on improvement

Maryland should adopt a policy requiring that teachers who receive even one unsatisfactory evaluation be placed on structured improvement plans. These plans should focus on performance areas that directly connect to student learning and should list noted deficiencies, define specific action steps necessary to address these deficiencies and describe how and when progress will be measured.

# Make eligibility for dismissal a consequence of unsatisfactory evaluations.

Teachers who receive two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations or have two unsatisfactory evaluations within five years should be formally eligible for dismissal, regardless of whether they have tenure. Maryland should adopt a policy that ensures that teachers who receive such unsatisfactory evaluations are eligible for dismissal.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland asserted that it does have a policy regarding teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations. The state noted that current regulations allow for the dismissal of a teacher for "incompetence," which includes among its definitions for use the poor performance of teachers in the classroom. One system has tripled the number of teachers dismissed since 2008, employing regulations that already exist.

In addition, the state said that under Section 6-202 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, local superintendents can, at any time, bring charges for dismissal of a teacher for incompetence. Further, local superintendents can, at any time of renewal of the teacher's certification, rate the teacher's job performance as unsatisfactory and bring action under the employment contract. In fact, teachers who receive two unsatisfactory evaluations are eligible for dismissal, regardless of whether or not they have tenure.

Finally, the state pointed out that under Maryland law, Section 6-301 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, local superintendents must identify teacher certificates as either first class or second class. The latter indicates less-than-satisfactory job performance. As a consequence, holders of second-class certificates do not receive "salary increases based on experience" as part of their compensation.

#### **Supporting Research**

http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/13a/13a.07.02.01.htm

#### **LAST WORD**

NCTQ can find no language in the state's citation that reflects policy stipulating that two unsatisfactory evaluations make a teacher eligible for dismissal. Section 6-202 of the state code cited does permit dismissal based on incompetence, which in effect could result in eligibility for dismissal after two unsatisfactory evaluations, but does not include the explicit definition reference by the state. The generalized wording of the term "incompetence" provides no guarantee that this will occur, nor is there any mention in statute or regulation that a teacher should be placed on an improvement plan to address effectiveness issues after an unsatisfactory evaluation.

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consequences for	757.	SN11S	] Other consequences	bəs <sub>u</sub>
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New Jersey				
New Mexico				
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North Carolina		5		
North Dakota				
Ohio			6	
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Oregon				
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Washington				
West Virginia				
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Wyoming				
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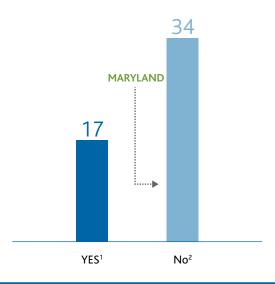
- Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- While results of evaluations may be used in dismissal decisions, there are no specific criteria for a teacher's eligibility for dismissal.
- Improvement plans are only used for teachers in identified "Schools At Risk." Those same teachers are also eligible for dismissal for multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.
- 5. Teachers in low performing schools can be dismissed after one negative rating.
- Local school boards must include procedures for using evaluation results for the removal of poorly performing teachers.

# **\*** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Illinois and Oklahoma both require that teachers who receive unsatisfactory evaluations be placed on improvement plans. Teachers in Illinois are then evaluated three times during a 90-day remediation period and are eligible for dismissal if performance remains unsatisfactory. In addition, new legislation in Illinois allows districts to dismiss a teacher without going through the remediation process if that teacher has already completed a remediation plan but then receives an unsatisfactory rating within the next three years. Oklahoma's improvement plan may not exceed two months, and if performance does not improve during that time, teachers are eligible for dismissal.

Figure 134

Do states specify that all teachers with multiple unsatisfactory evaluations are eligible for dismissal?



- Strong Practice: Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Washington
- 2. Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Idaho<sup>3</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada<sup>4</sup>, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Teachers could face nonrenewal based on evaluation results, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal after multiple unsatisfactory evaluations.
- 4. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not clear that a teacher is eligible for dismissal.

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal C – Dismissal for Poor Performance

The state should articulate that ineffective classroom performance is grounds for dismissal and ensure that the process for terminating ineffective teachers is expedient and fair to all parties.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

- 1. The state should articulate that teachers may be dismissed for ineffective classroom performance.
- A teacher who is terminated for poor performance should have an opportunity to appeal. In the interest of both the teacher and the school district, the state should ensure that this appeal occurs within a reasonable time frame.
- 3. There should be a clear distinction between the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed for classroom ineffectiveness and the process and accompanying due process rights for teachers dismissed or facing license revocation for felony or morality violations or dereliction of duties.

### Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 5: Goal C Maryland Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

In Maryland, tenured teachers who are dismissed have multiple opportunities to appeal. After receiving written notice of dismissal, the teacher has 10 days to file the first appeal to the county board. The state does not specify a time frame for this hearing, only that it must occur "promptly." The teacher may then file an additional appeal with the state board. The time frame of this appeal is not addressed by the state.

Maryland does not explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal, nor does the state distinguish the due process rights of teachers dismissed for ineffective performance from those facing other charges commonly associated with license revocation, such as a felony and/or morality violations. The process is the same regardless of the grounds for cancellation, which include immorality, misconduct, insubordination, incompetency and willful neglect of duty.

### **Supporting Research**

Code of Maryland 6-202

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

■ Specify that classroom ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.

Euphemistic terms such as "incompetency" are ambiguous at best and may be interpreted as concerning dereliction of duty rather than ineffectiveness. Maryland should explicitly make teacher ineffectiveness grounds for dismissal so that districts do not feel they lack the legal basis for terminating consistently poor performers. Without this specification, Maryland's efforts to improve its evaluation framework (see Goal 3-B) may be undermined.

Ensure that teachers terminated for poor performance have the opportunity to appeal within a reasonable time frame.

Nonprobationary teachers who are dismissed for any grounds, including ineffectiveness, are entitled to due process. However, cases that drag on for years drain resources from school districts and create a disincentive for districts to attempt to terminate poor performers. Therefore, the state must ensure that the opportunity to appeal occurs only once and only at the district level. It is in the best interest of both the teacher and the district that a conclusion be reached within a reasonable time frame.

■ Distinguish the process and accompanying due process rights between dismissal for classroom ineffectiveness and dismissal for morality violations, felonies or dereliction of duty.

While nonprobationary teachers should have due process for any termination, it is important to differentiate between loss of employment and issues with far-reaching consequences that could permanently impact a teacher's right to practice. Maryland should ensure that appeals related to classroom effectiveness are only decided by those with educational expertise.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

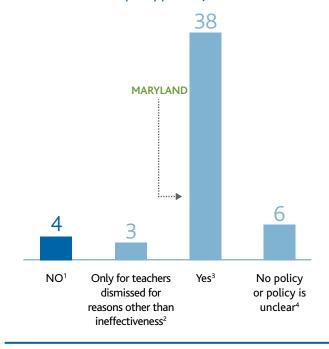
Figure 120			
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### TEXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Oklahoma clearly articulates that teacher ineffectiveness in the classroom is grounds for dismissal and has taken steps to ensure that the dismissal process for teachers deemed to be ineffective is expedited. Teachers facing dismissal have only one opportunity to appeal.

Figure 137 Do states allow multiple appeals of teacher dismissals?



- 1. Strong Practice: Florida, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Wisconsin
- 2. Teachers in these states revert to probationary status following ineffective evaluation ratings, meaning that they no longer have the due process right to multiple appeals: Colorado, Indiana, Tennessee
- 3. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois<sup>5</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming
- 4. District of Columbia, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada<sup>6</sup>, Utah, Vermont
- 5. The teacher is responsible for the cost of the second appeal.
- 6. Though a teacher returns to probationary status after two consecutive unsatisfactory ratings, the state does not articulate clear policy about its appeals process.

### Figure 136

- 1. It is left to districts to define "inadequacy of classroom performance."
- 2. A teacher reverts to probationary status after two consecutive years of unsatisfactory evaluations, but it is not articulated that ineffectiveness is grounds for dismissal.
- 3. Dismissal policy includes dismissal for unsatisfactory evaluations, but the state's evaluation system does not measure teacher effectiveness (see Goal 3-B).

# **Area 5: Exiting Ineffective Teachers**

# Goal D – Reductions in Force

The state should require that its school districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off when a reduction in force is necessary.

### **Goal Components**

(The factors considered in determining the states' rating for the goal.)

1. The state should require that districts consider classroom performance and ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off.

# Background

A detailed rationale and supporting research for this goal can be found at www.nctq.org/stpy.



# Area 5: Goal D **Maryland** Analysis



State Does Not Meet Goal



Progress Since 2009

#### **ANALYSIS**

Maryland does not have policy that addresses the factors used by districts to determine which teachers are laid off during a reduction in force.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Require that districts consider classroom performance as a factor in determining which teachers are laid off during reductions in force.
  - Maryland can still leave districts flexibility in determining layoff policies, but it should do so within a framework that ensures that classroom performance is considered.
- Ensure that seniority is not the only factor used to determine which teachers are laid off. Unlike some states, Maryland does not require that districts consider seniority; however, the state should do more to prevent districts from making decisions solely on this basis.

#### MARYLAND RESPONSE TO ANALYSIS

Maryland recognized the factual accuracy of this analysis.

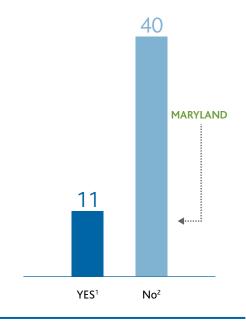




### **T** EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICE

Colorado, Florida and Indiana all specify that in determining which teachers to lay off during a reduction in force, classroom performance is the top criterion. These states also articulate that seniority can only be considered after a teacher's performance is taken into account.

Figure 140 Do districts have to consider performance in determining which teachers are laid off?



- 1. Strong Practice: Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah
- 2. Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio3, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming
- 3. Tenure is considered first.

Figure 141

Do states prevent districts from overemphasizing seniority in layoff decisions?



<sup>1.</sup> Strong Practice: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri<sup>6</sup>, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio<sup>6</sup>, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas

- 2. Strong Practice: Idaho, Utah
- 3. Hawaii, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Wisconsin<sup>7</sup>
- 4. California, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon
- 5. Alabama, Alaska<sup>6</sup>, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia<sup>6</sup>, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts<sup>6</sup>, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska<sup>6</sup>, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming
- 6. Nontenured teachers are laid off first.
- 7. Only for counties with populations of 500,000 or more and for teachers hired before 1995.

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Sandi Jacobs Vice President sjacobs@nctq.org 202-393-0020